ブックデザイン＊木谷正和［エクスプリム］

BIG COMICS SPECIAL

宗像教授異考録

第二集

星野之宣

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民話「花咲爺」に込められた古人の想い、
古代史最大の謎・邪馬台国のダイナミズム、
織姫・彦星伝説にまつわる時空を超えた論考
世界各地で語り継がれてきた伝説や神話、
古来から受け継がれてきた風習等には、
何らかの歴史的事実が秘められている。
東亜文化大学教授・宗像伝奇（むなかたただくす）が閉ざされし歴史の真実の扉を開く。

小学館
BCS0519

平像教授異考録

Heizou Kyouju Ikoukiroku

BIG COMICS SPECIAL

THE CASE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MUNAKATA

宗像教授異考録

Collection 2

第二集

星野之宣

Munakata Kyouju Ikouroku

Yukinobu Hoshino Presents

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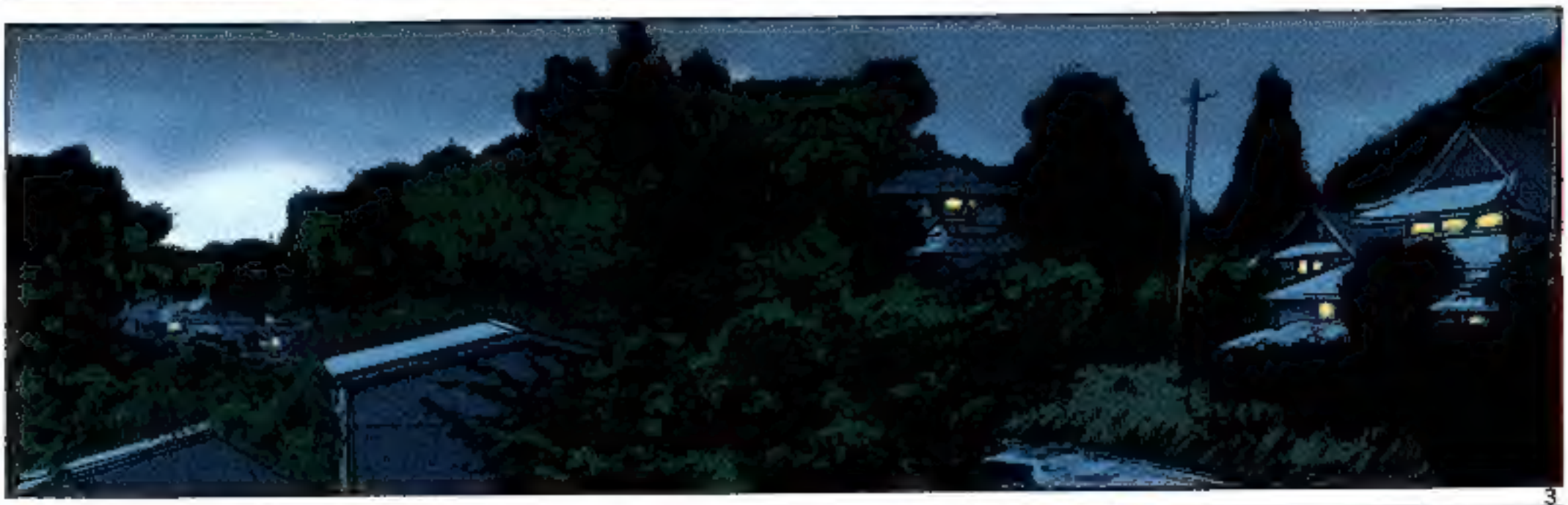
CHAPTER 5: THE OLD MAN WHO MADE TREES BLOSSOM'S DOG

SCRATCH SCRATCH!



崎造

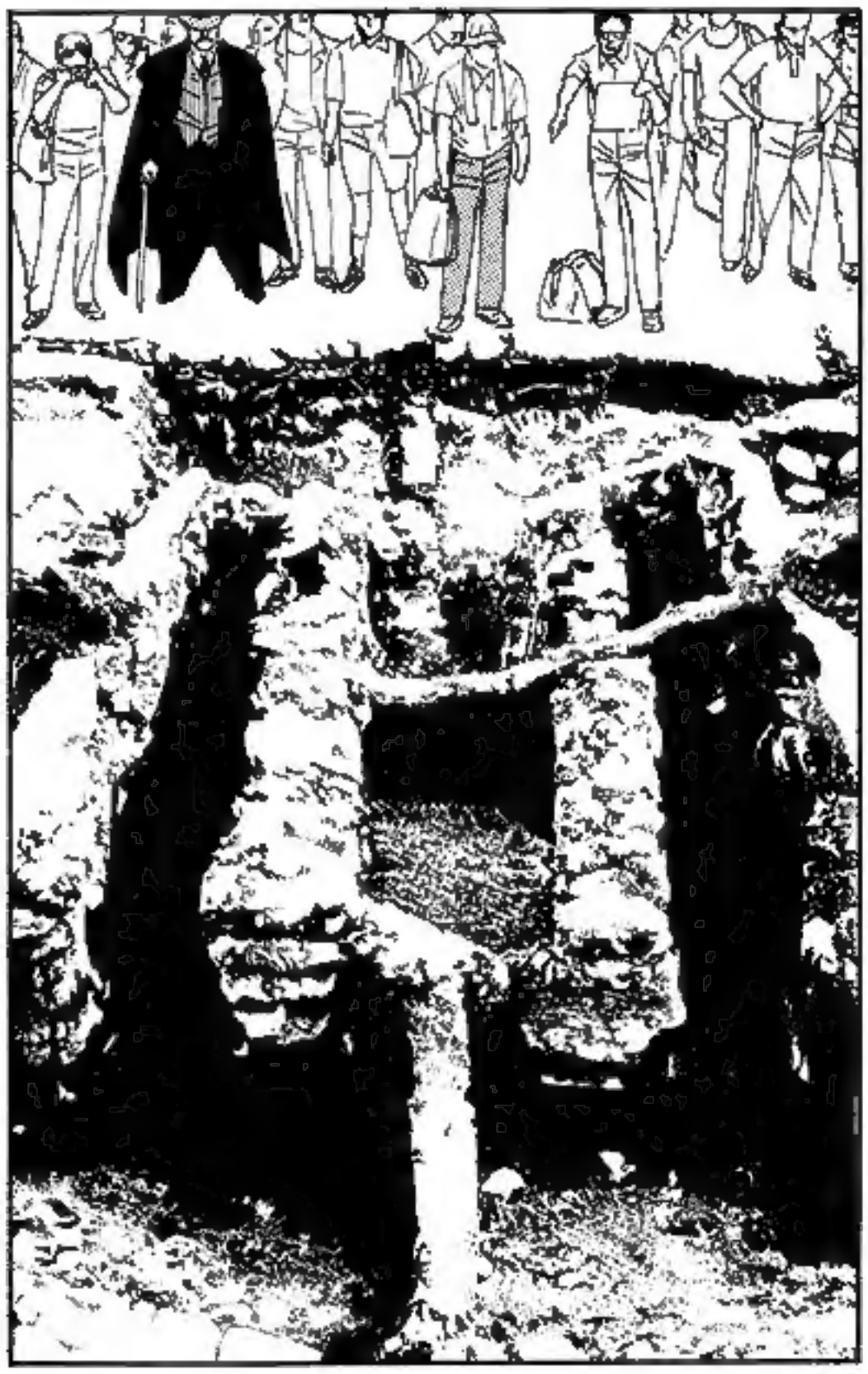
PAPA
...!?

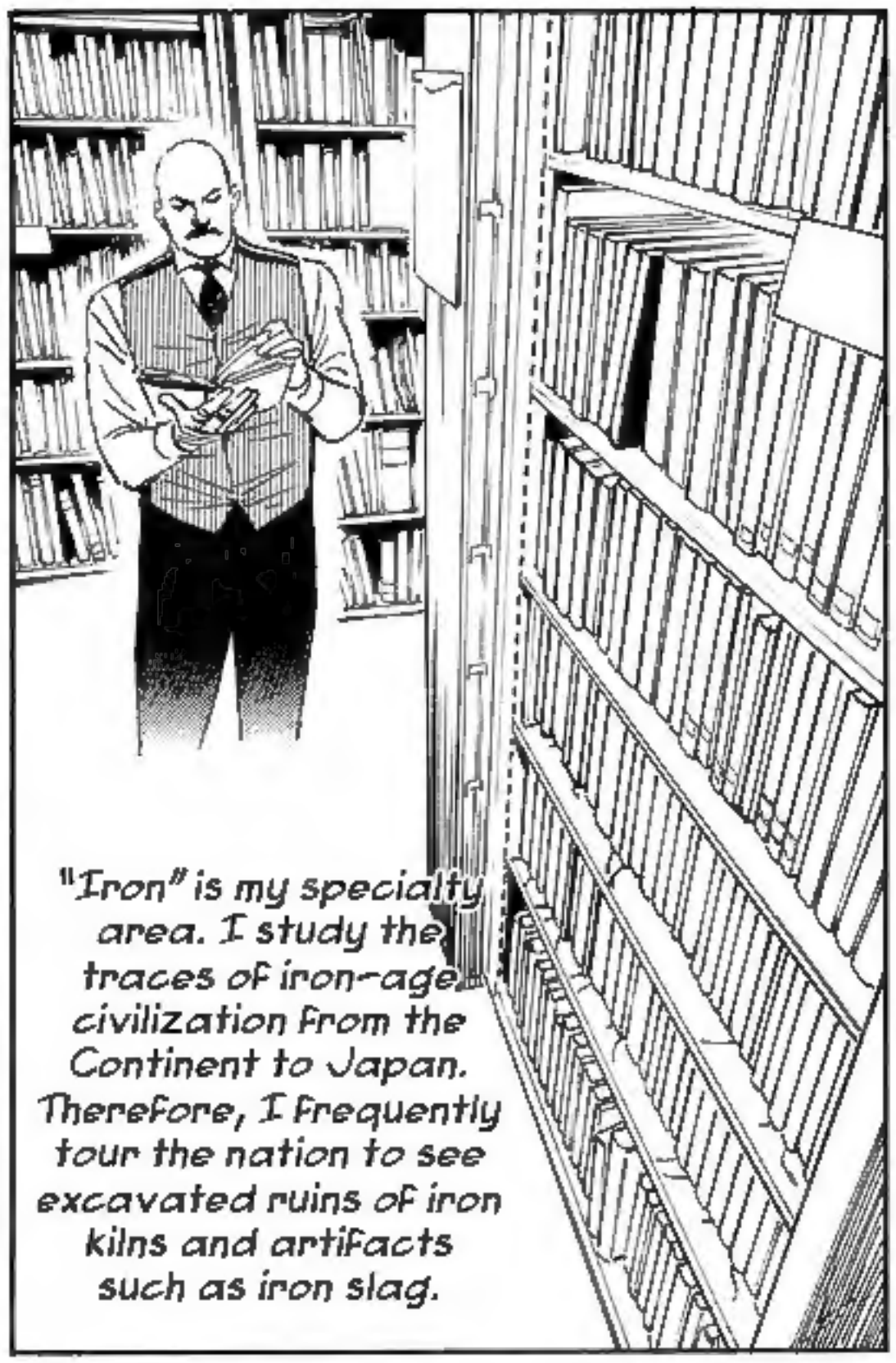
Osato Distict,
Saitama Prefecture
Hanazono

From the perspective of Tokyo, Hanazono is just upstream on the Arakawa, but the remains of a Heian-period iron kiln called Daikochi Ruins were discovered here.

I haven't been to this town in twelve years.

宗像教授異考録 2




"Iron" is my specialty area. I study the traces of iron-age civilization from the Continent to Japan. Therefore, I frequently tour the nation to see excavated ruins of iron kilns and artifacts such as iron slag.

Twelve years ago, I met a local historical researcher named Mr. Hanazaki there.

5

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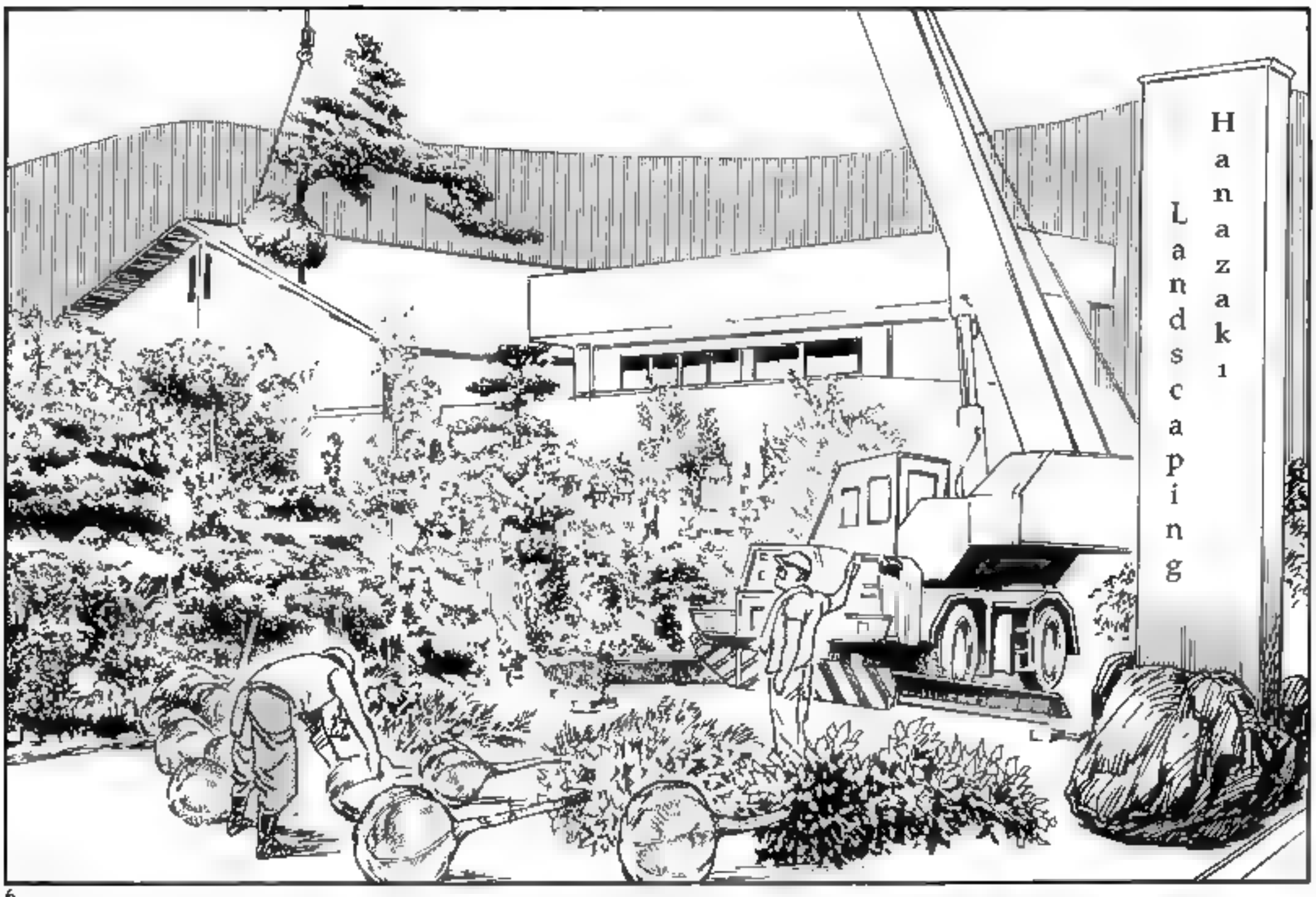
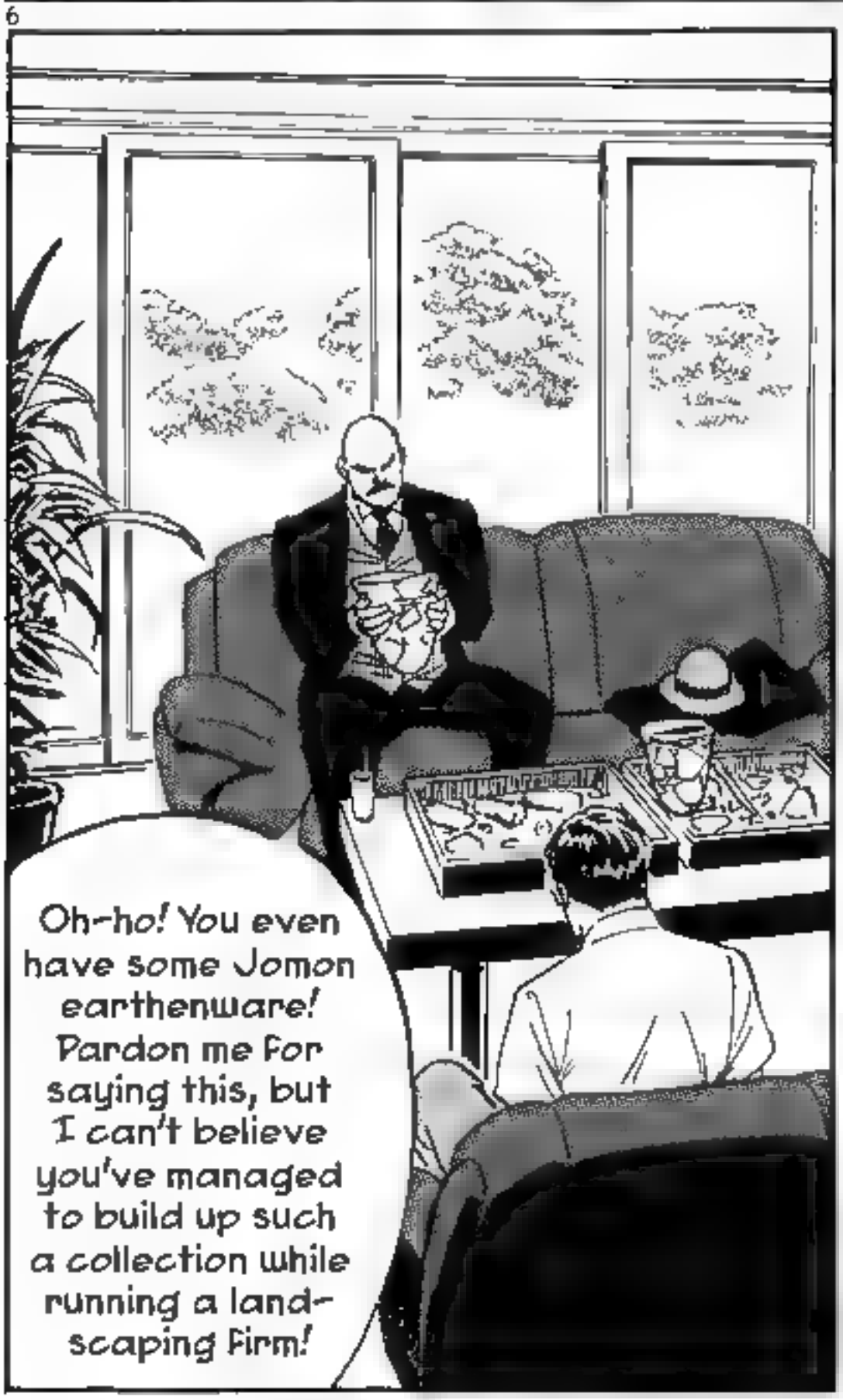
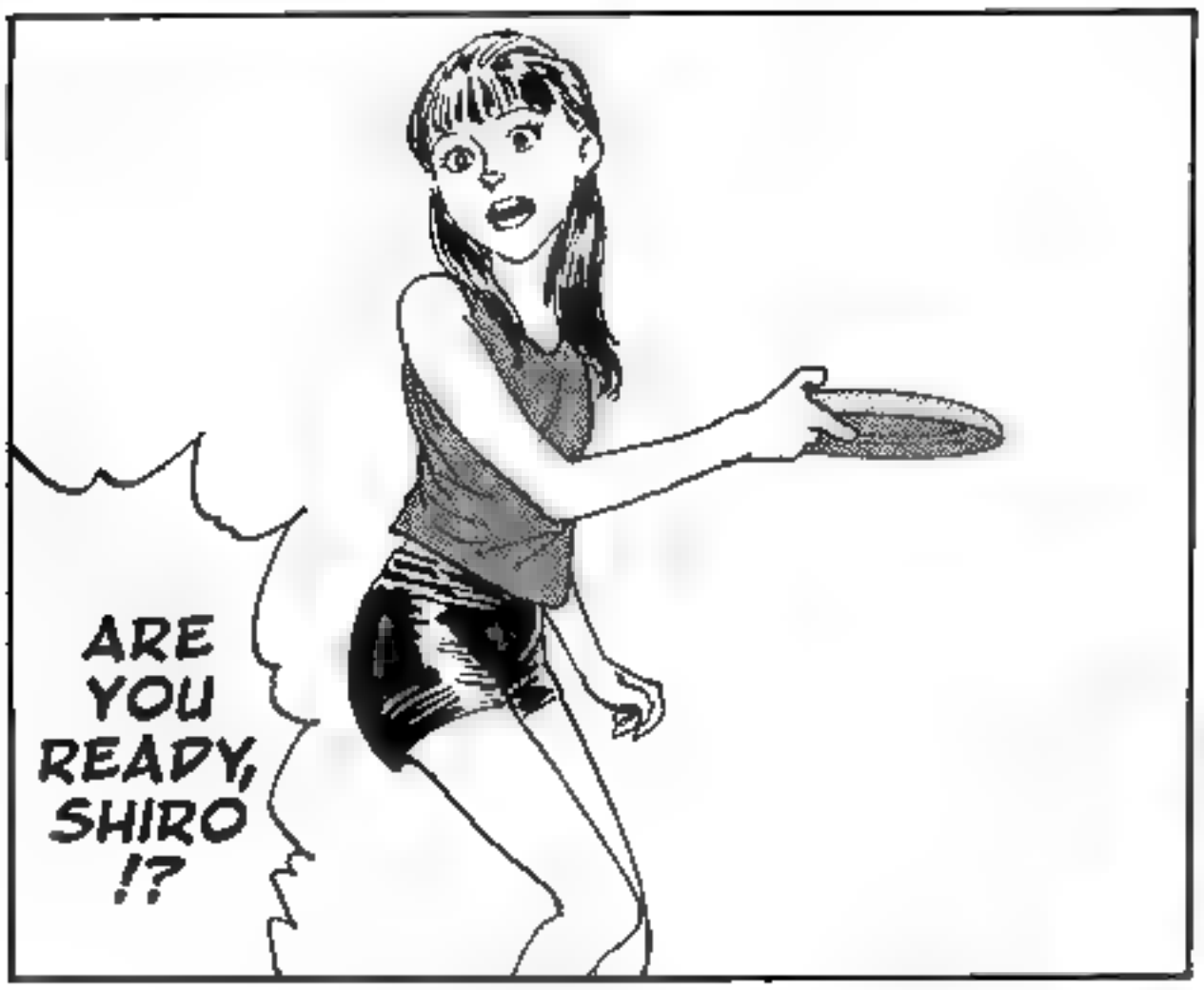

Hanazaki
Landscaping

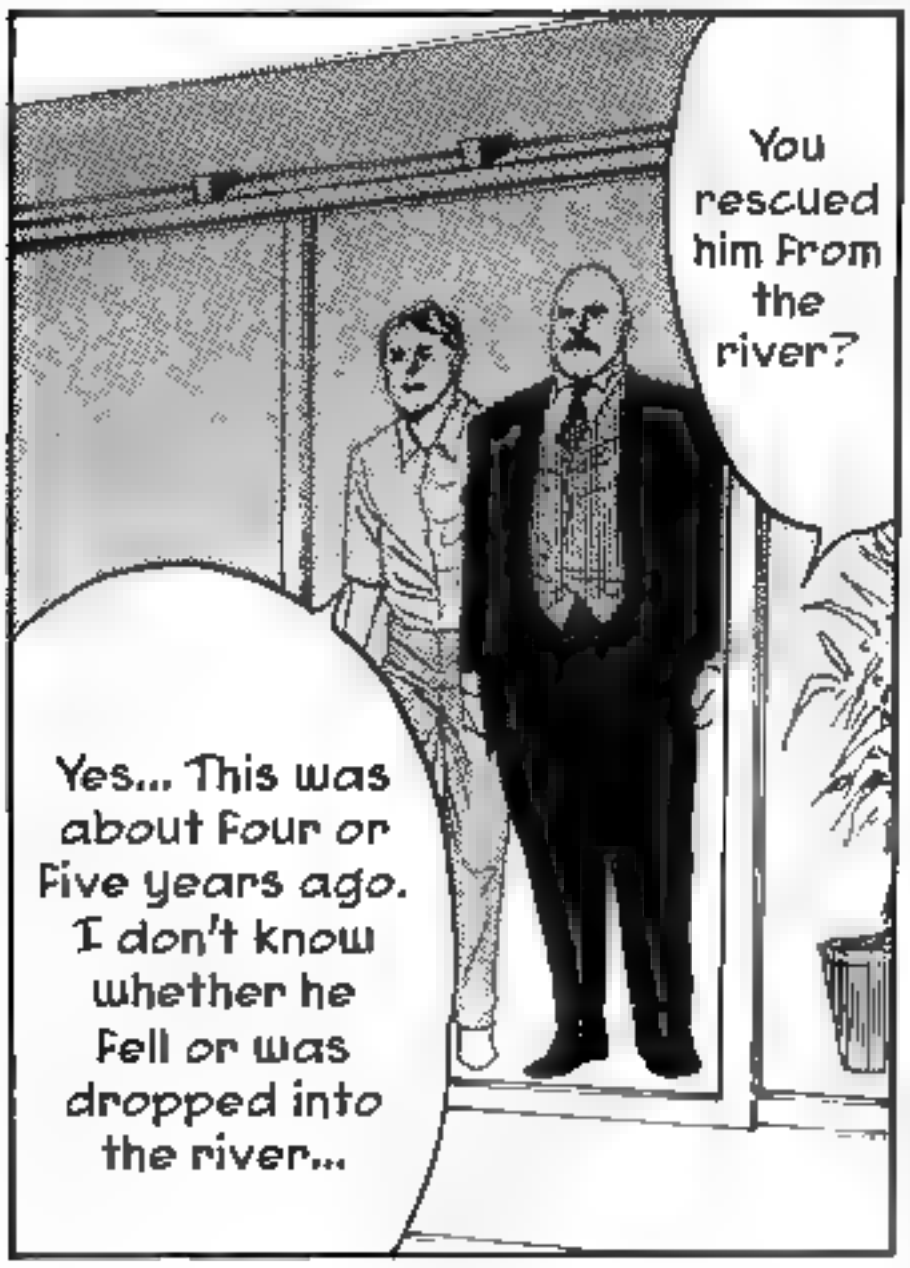

Oh-ho! You even have some Jomon earthenware! Pardon me for saying this, but I can't believe you've managed to build up such a collection while running a landscaping firm!

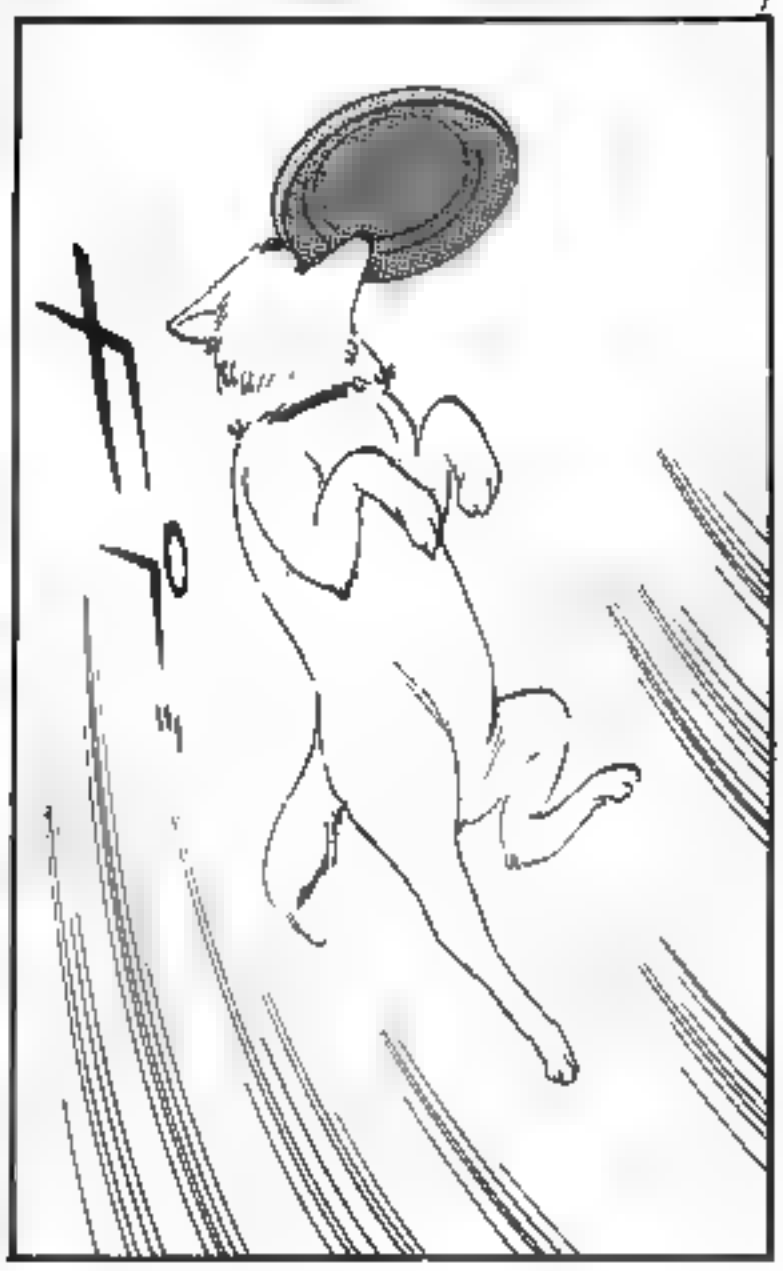
This is really a great honor. I'm just an amateur who digs these up on his days off...

There's so much slag here... There must be some undiscovered iron kilns apart from Daikochi and Oyama Ruins.


ARE YOU READY, SHIRO !?

GO!


You rescued him from the river?
Yes... This was about four or five years ago. I don't know whether he fell or was dropped into the river...



But my daughter Harumi took good care of him, and he's all better now...

...And he had a number of bruises. Someone must've been throwing rocks at him.

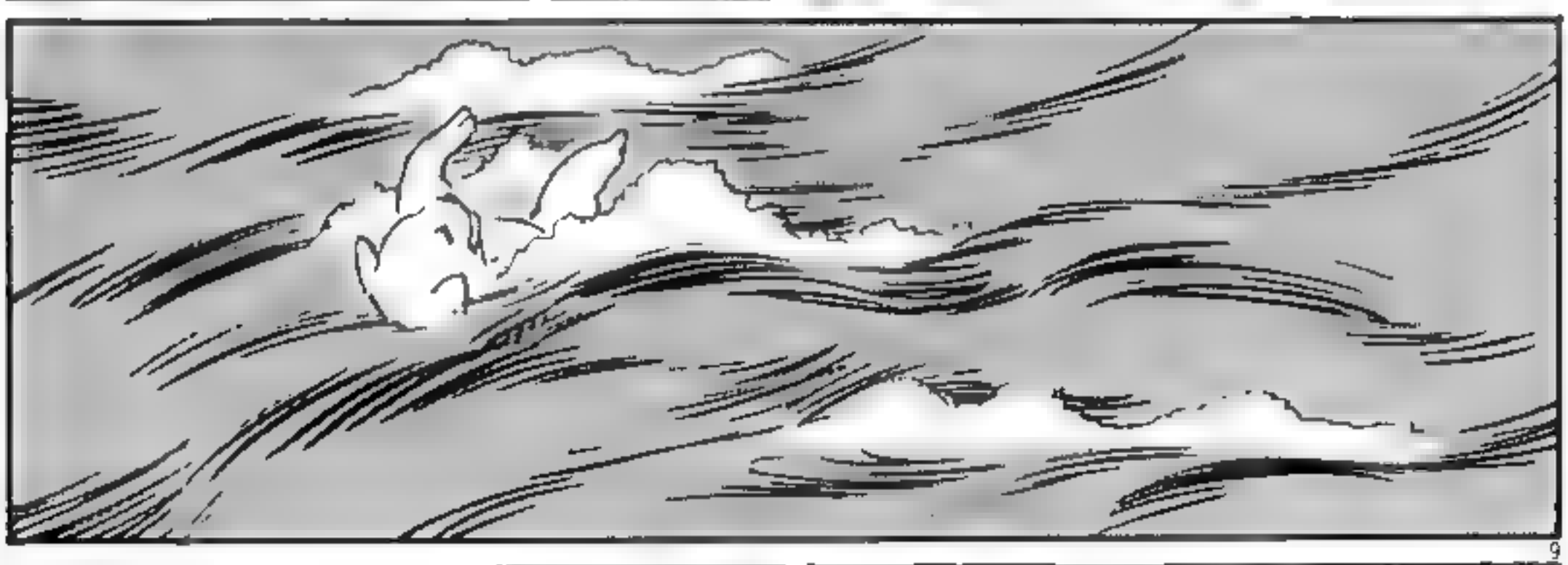
But he seemed to have been born with a limp in his right front leg, so he was probably abandoned in the river...

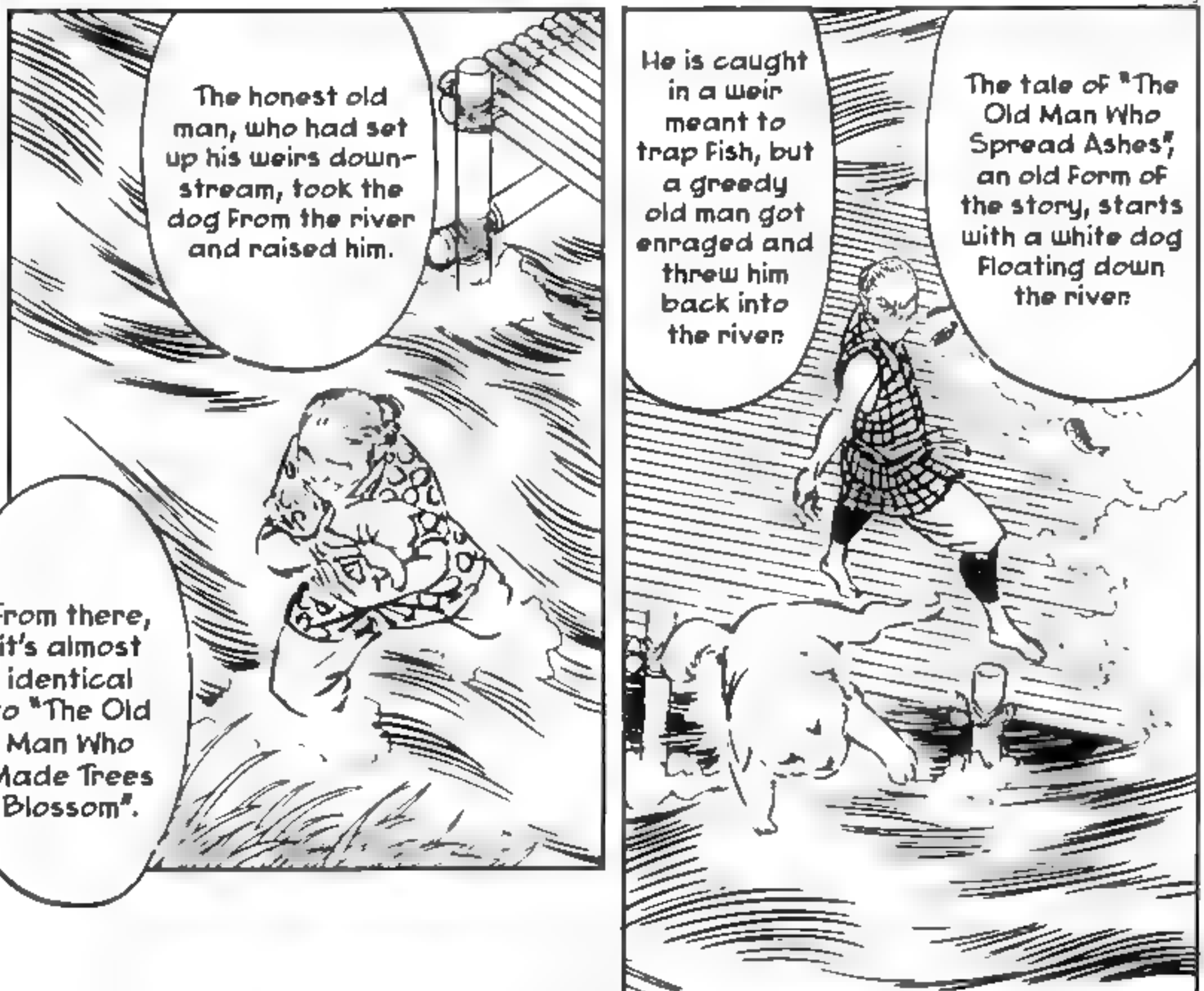
Thanks to that, I've been able to devote more time to my hobby of historical research. You could say Shiro's my god of luck. Hahaha...

花崎造園

Ever since then, my landscaping business started booming, we hired more employees, and I ended up with a lot more free time.

The Old Man Who Made Trees Blossom?
Sounds like "The Old Man Who Made Trees Blossom".
.....




The honest old man, who had set up his weirs down-stream, took the dog from the river and raised him.
He is caught in a weir meant to trap fish, but a greedy old man got enraged and threw him back into the river.
The tale of "The Old Man Who Spread Ashes", an old form of the story, starts with a white dog floating down the river.
From there, it's almost identical to "The Old Man Who Made Trees Blossom".

The dog found gold for the honest old man, but dug up nothing but excrement for the greedy old man, so he killed him.

When the honest old man spread the mortar's ashes, withered trees would blossom anew, and he received a reward from the lord...

The honest old man made a grave for the dog, and made a mortar from the tree that grew there. That mortar then began to make gold. But when the greedy old man tried to do the same, he failed, so he burned the mortar.

Some say that an even older form of "The Old Man Who Made Trees Blossom" is the Chinese story "Gou Geng-tian".

Long ago, a pair of brothers were dividing their inheritance, but the elder brother only gave a single dog to the younger...

The elder brother borrowed the dog to try the same, but failed. In a rage, he killed the dog and ate him.

But the younger brother made a wager with a merchant over whether he could make the dog till his field, and he won the bet and became rich.

When the younger brother spread the ashes over his field, his crops grew larger, and he became wealthier and wealthier.

The younger brother buried the dog's bones, and a stalk of bamboo grew from where it was buried, and it dropped gold, silver, and jewels for him. The elder brother failed yet again, and ended up burning the bamboo down.

The only major difference would be that the brothers became the greedy old man and honest old man, correct...?

Hmm m...

I see. They are pretty similar... So The Old Man Who Made Flowers Blossom is a story that came from China...

The form that surrounds two neighboring old men who are perfect strangers may be unique to Japan...

There's a similar story that exists in Korea, and again, they are brothers.

Good boy, Shiro.

Keep on bringing luck, just like the old man's dog.

Come to think of it, this town's called Hanazono, and the neighboring town upstream on the Arakawa is Nagatoko... It's a place famous for its cherry blossoms.

And so, twelve years passed. .

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Hi, Shiro. Glad to see you're well...

Oh, there's no need for you to be so reserved! Come right on in!

Hello...

I just had a chance to come up this way, so I decided to stop by. Sorry that I didn't give you any notice.

Professor Munakata! It's been too long!

(株) 花崎造園

Oh, this must be your daughter. You're in university now!? Well, I'll be...

Woof! Woof!

Your spring break's almost over, Harumi. Why don't you go take Shiro for a walk before you go back to school?

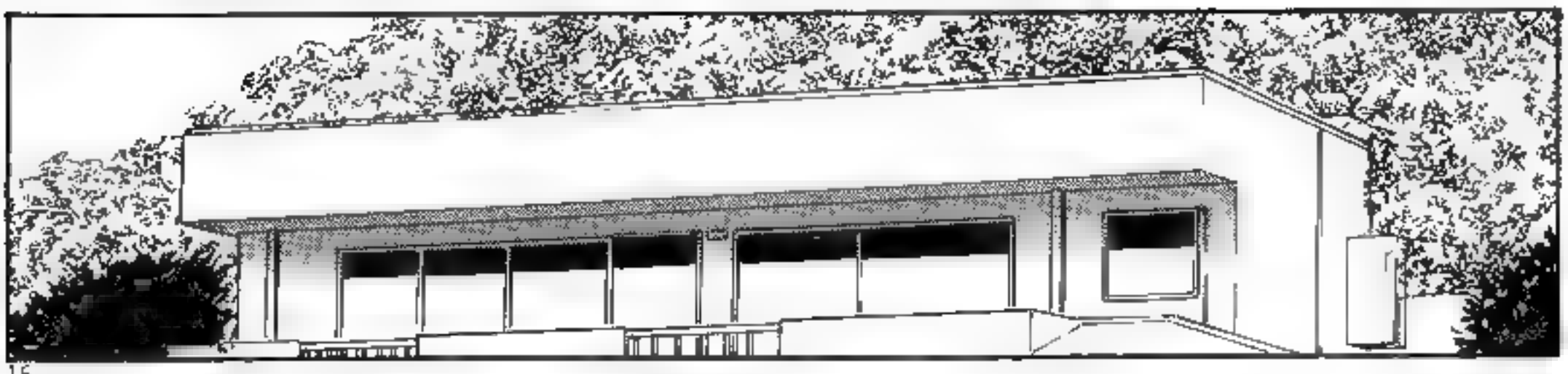
Woof!

Woof!

Be careful if you're going out into the hills! There's a suspicious man who's been sleeping in his car down by the riverbed!

.....

He's pretty old in dog years. Even dogs get senile and forgetful.
I don't think Shiro remembers me.



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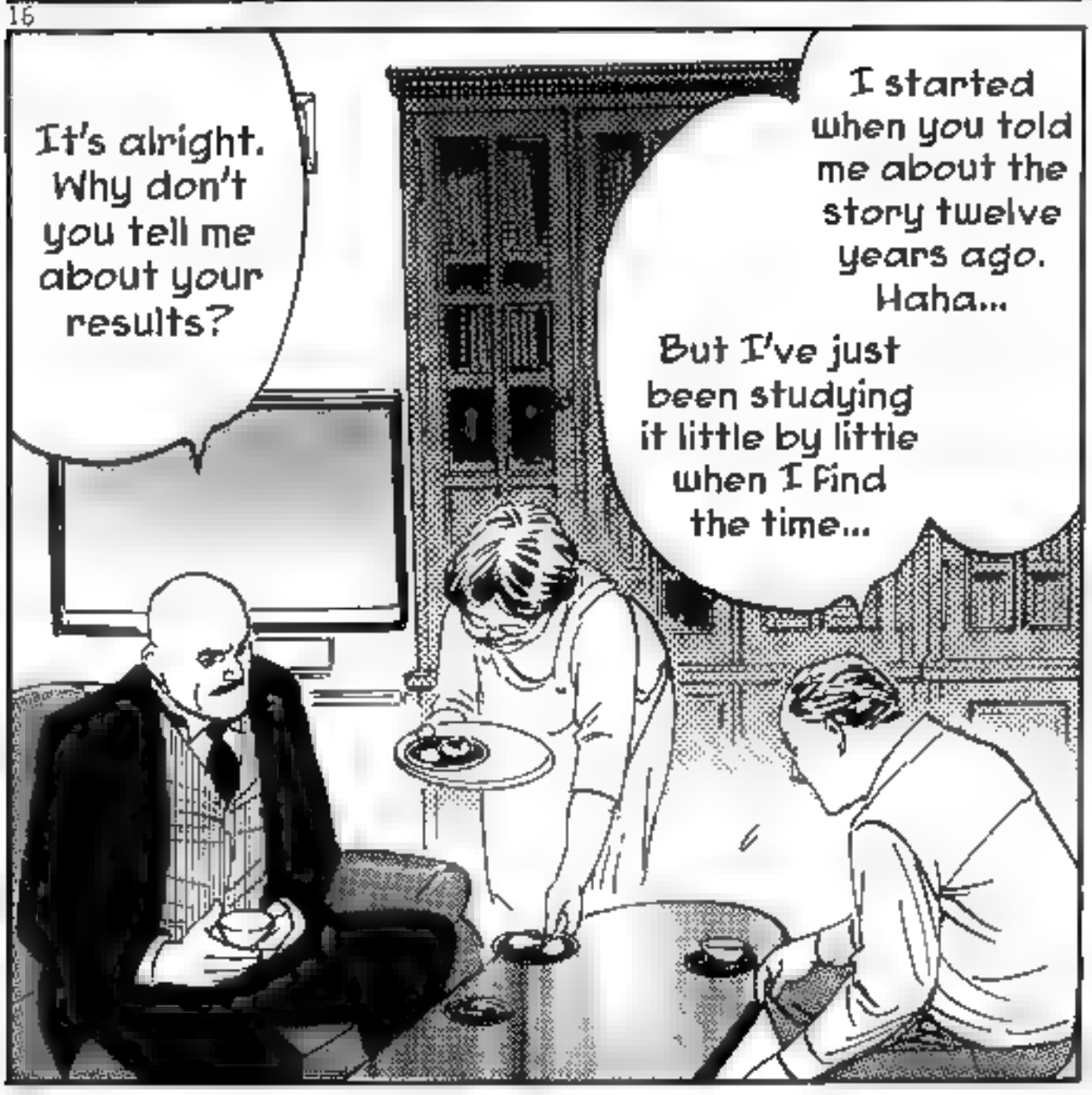
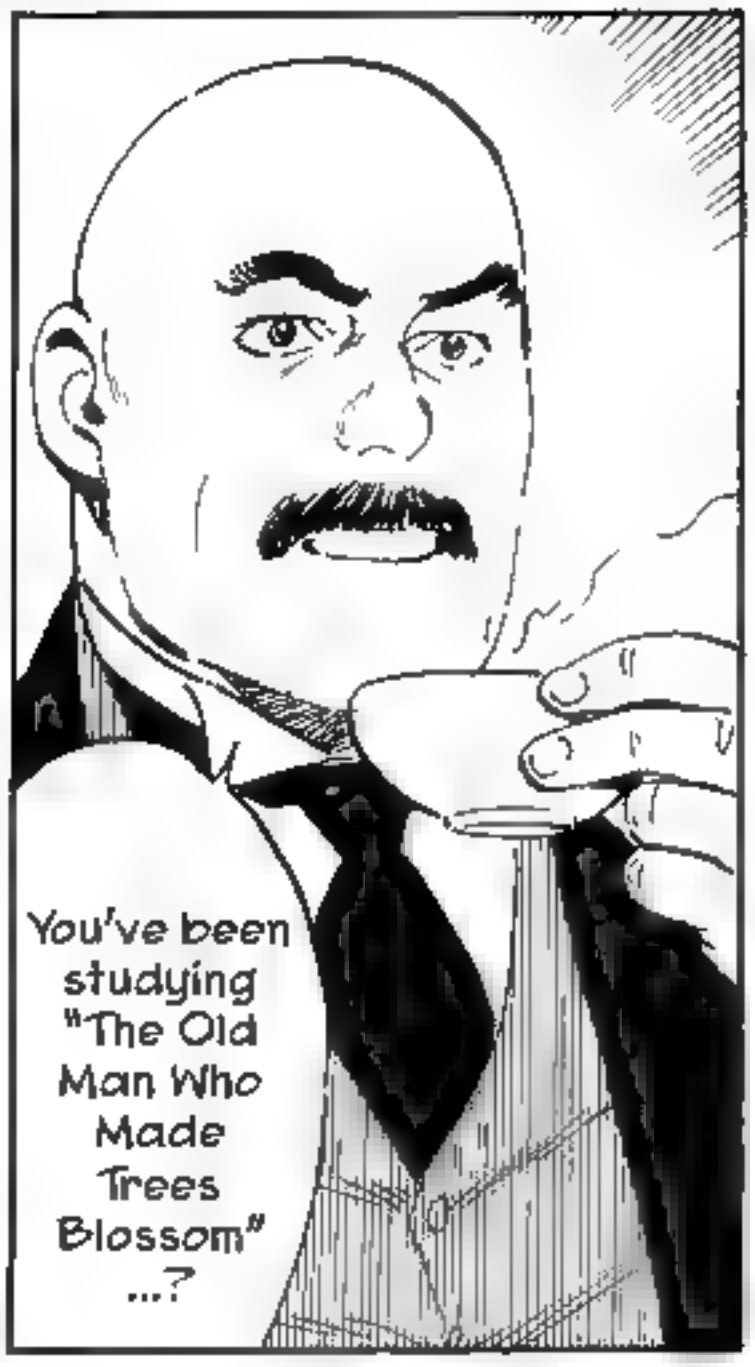
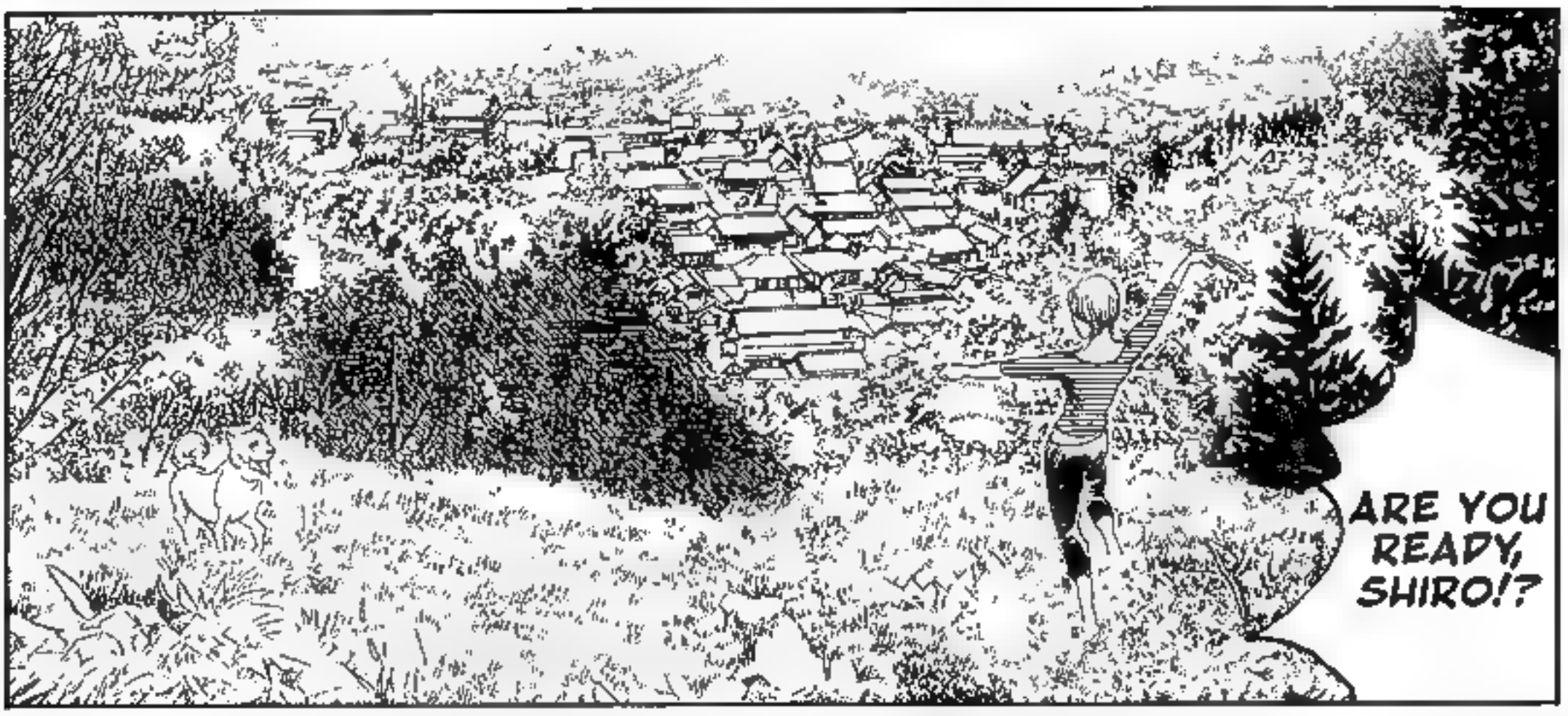

It's alright. Why don't you tell me about your results?
I started when you told me about the story twelve years ago. Haha...
But I've just been studying it little by little when I find the time...


You've been studying "The Old Man Who Made Trees Blossom" ...?

18


ARE YOU READY, SHIRO!?

……

The Yungui Plateau in southwest China is not only the region the story of "Gou Geng-tian" originated, but it's also a region where the "Legend of the Dog Ancestor" remains.

That's the saying that mankind is descended from dogs, and therefore dogs are sacred beasts.

The Legend of the Dog Ancestor...

If the story of "Guo Geng-tian" came to Japan to become "The Old Man Who Made Flowers Blossom", that means there must have been a foundation of the Legend of the Dog Ancestor here in Japan.

The "Myth of Panhu" is a famous instance in ancient China, and the Mongolian belief that their ancestors are wolves must be an instance of the Legend of the Dog Ancestor.

Speaking of the Ainu and Ryukyu, those are the regions in which genetic analysis has found the most prominent inheritance of Jomon traits.

The Ainu that live north of Tohoku and some groups in the Ryukyu Islands have legends claiming that dogs are their ancestor spirits...

It's true that the Legend of the Dog Ancestor exists in Japan.

I also think that this can be traced back to the Jomon people...!

A dog who would sniff out and corner prey would have been a precious partner for a Jomon hunter-gatherer and they may have even been revered as messengers from the gods.

The Jomon loved dogs with all their hearts.

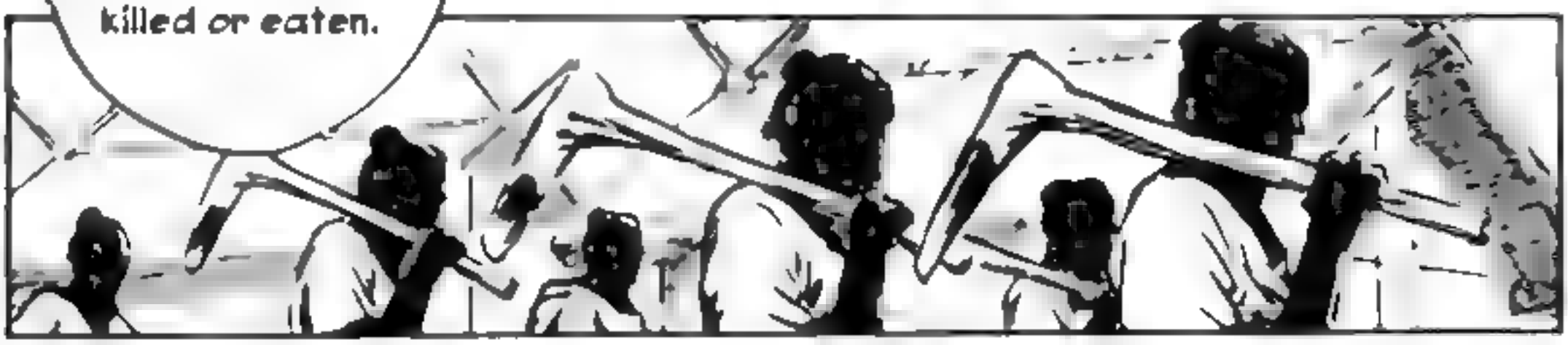
How-ever...

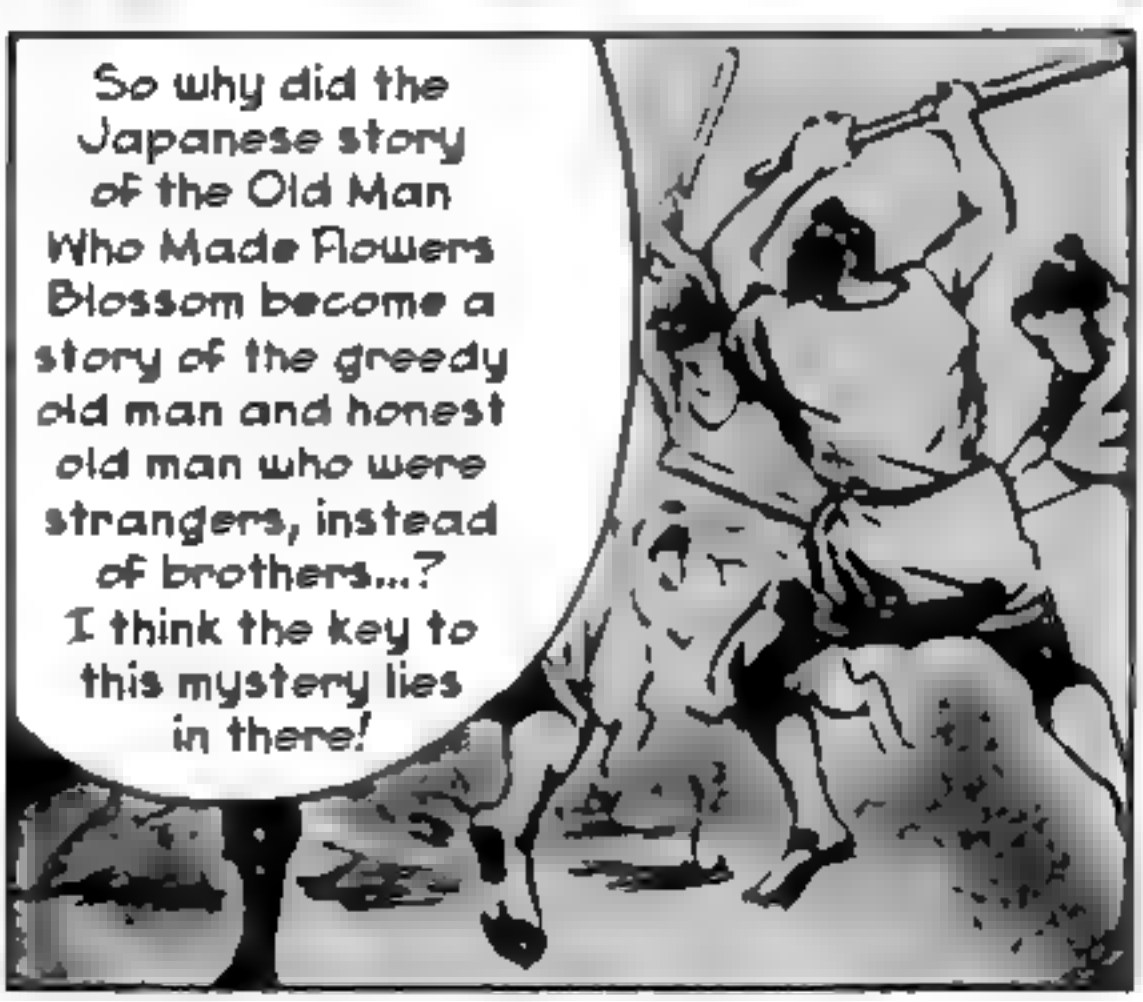
They have even excavated the graves of dogs buried extremely conscientiously, and even graves with dogs and people buried together from Jomon-period ruins.

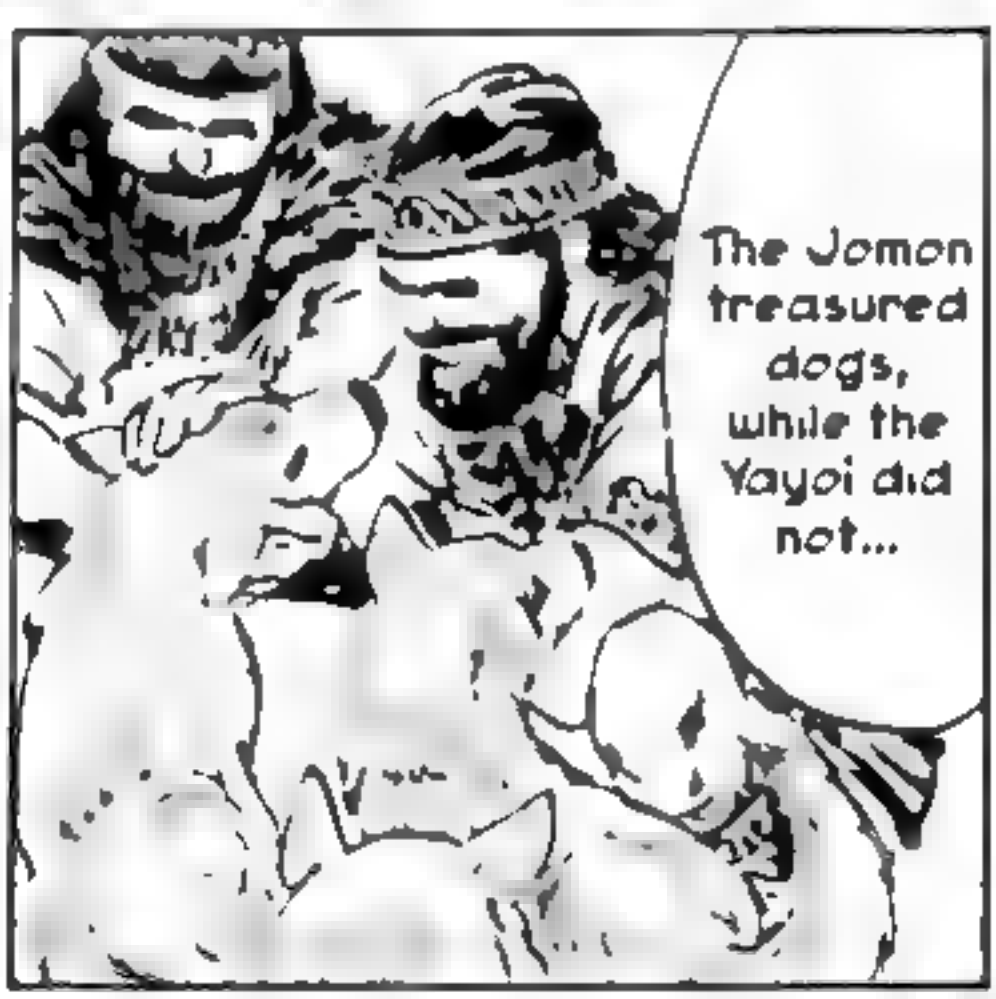
The completely foreign agricultural race called the "Yayoi" poured into Japan!

The ruins of Yayoi settlements have no dog graves, but instead the scattered bones of dogs who were killed or eaten.

As rice farmers, they had no particular use for dogs.




So why did the Japanese story of the Old Man Who Made Flowers Blossom become a story of the greedy old man and honest old man who were strangers, instead of brothers...? I think the key to this mystery lies in there!


The Jomon treasured dogs, while the Yayoi did not...

STUPID DOG!!

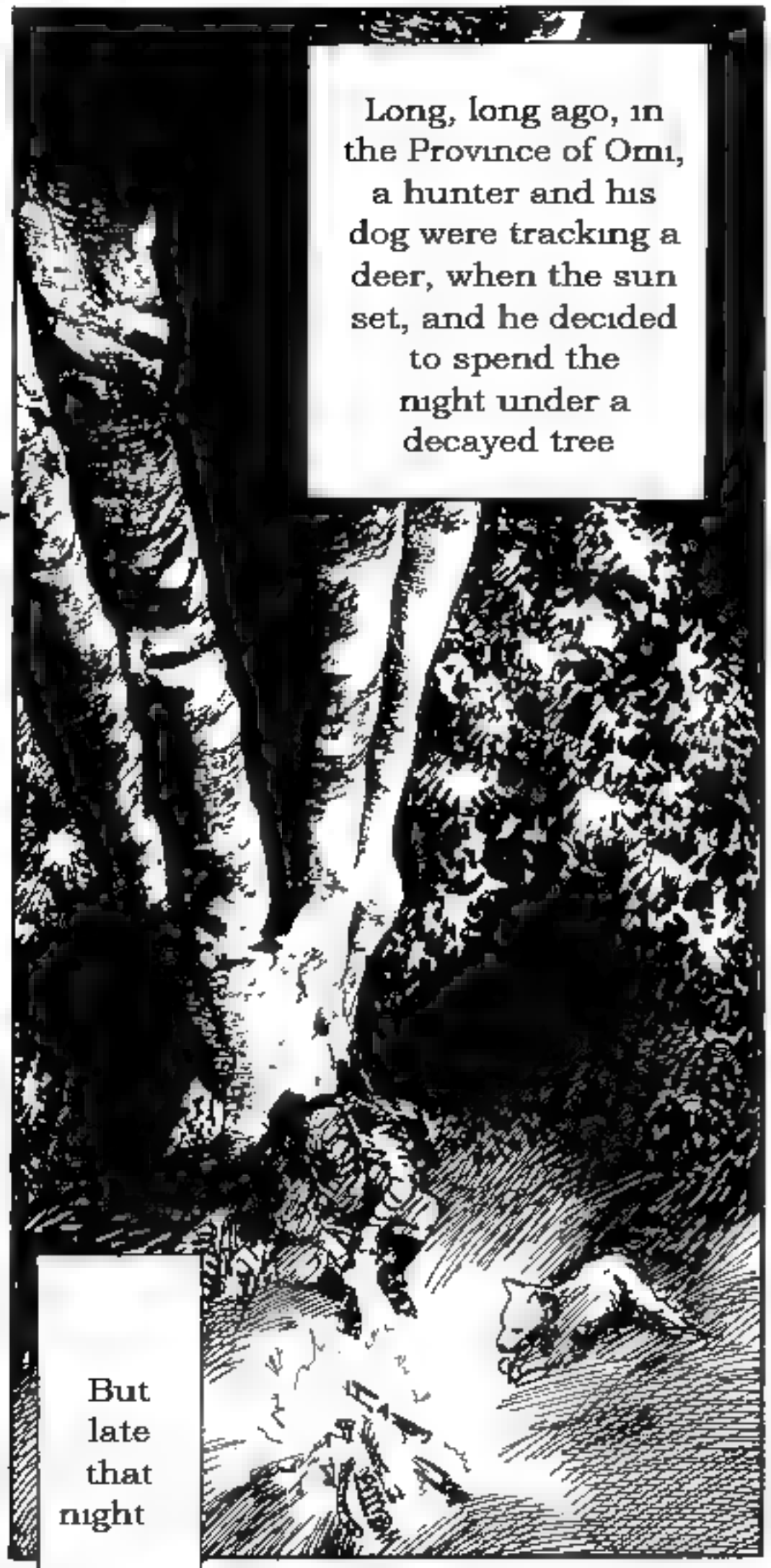
It's right in front of your nose! What's wrong with you!?
STUPID!

YOU GOT OLD! YOUR EYES, NOSE, AND BRAINS DON'T WORK ANYMORE!

Shiro...

Shiro...

The dog, who was usually qute clever, would not stop barking no matter how many times he was scolded, so the hunter became enraged



Long, long ago, in the Province of Omi, a hunter and his dog were tracking a deer, when the sun set, and he decided to spend the night under a decayed tree

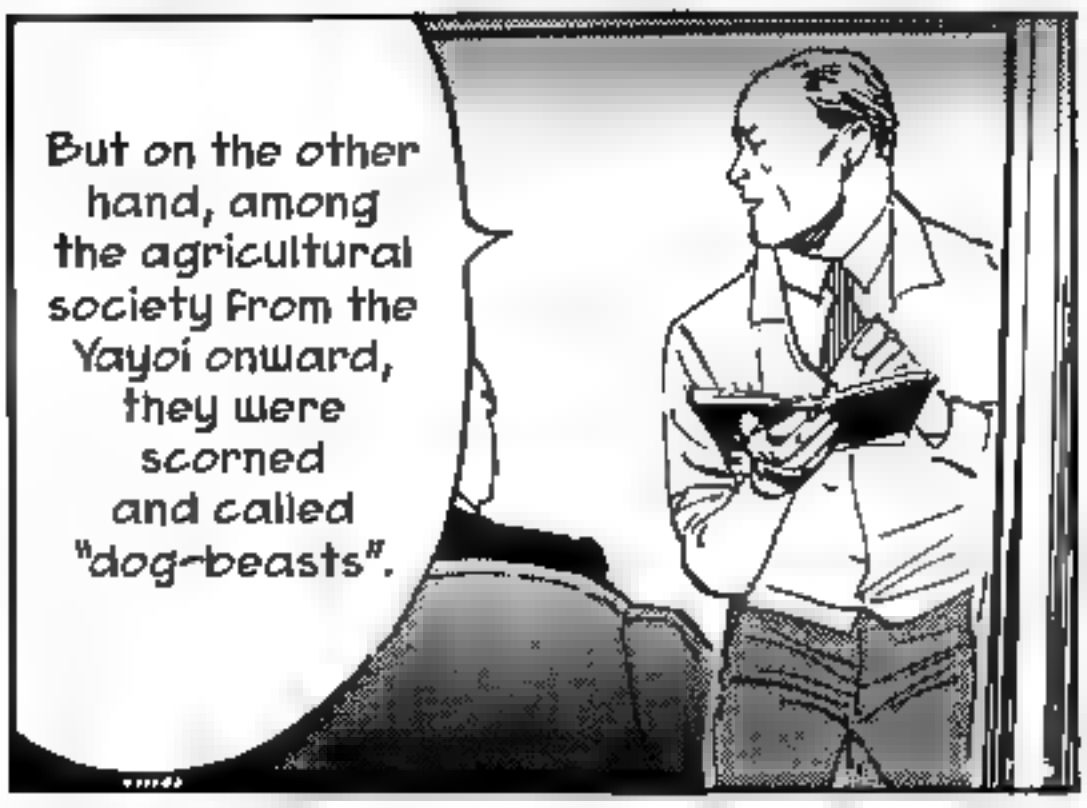
But late that night

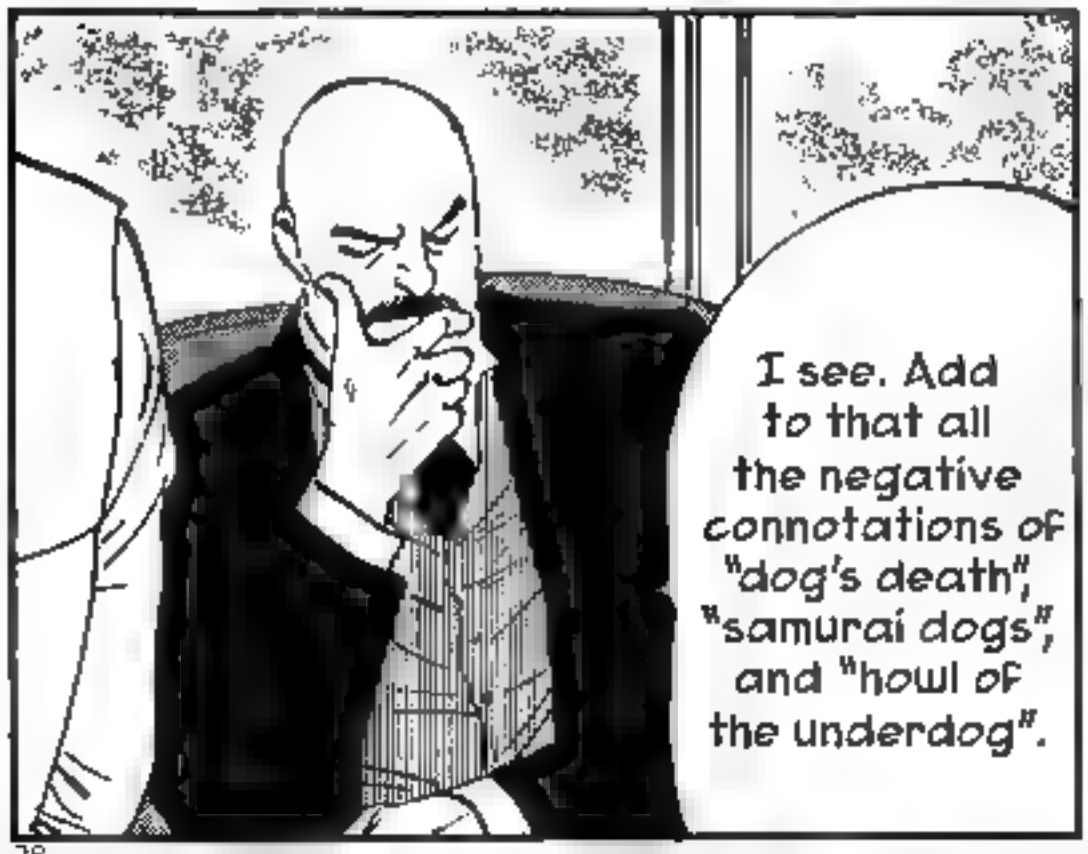
Then finally

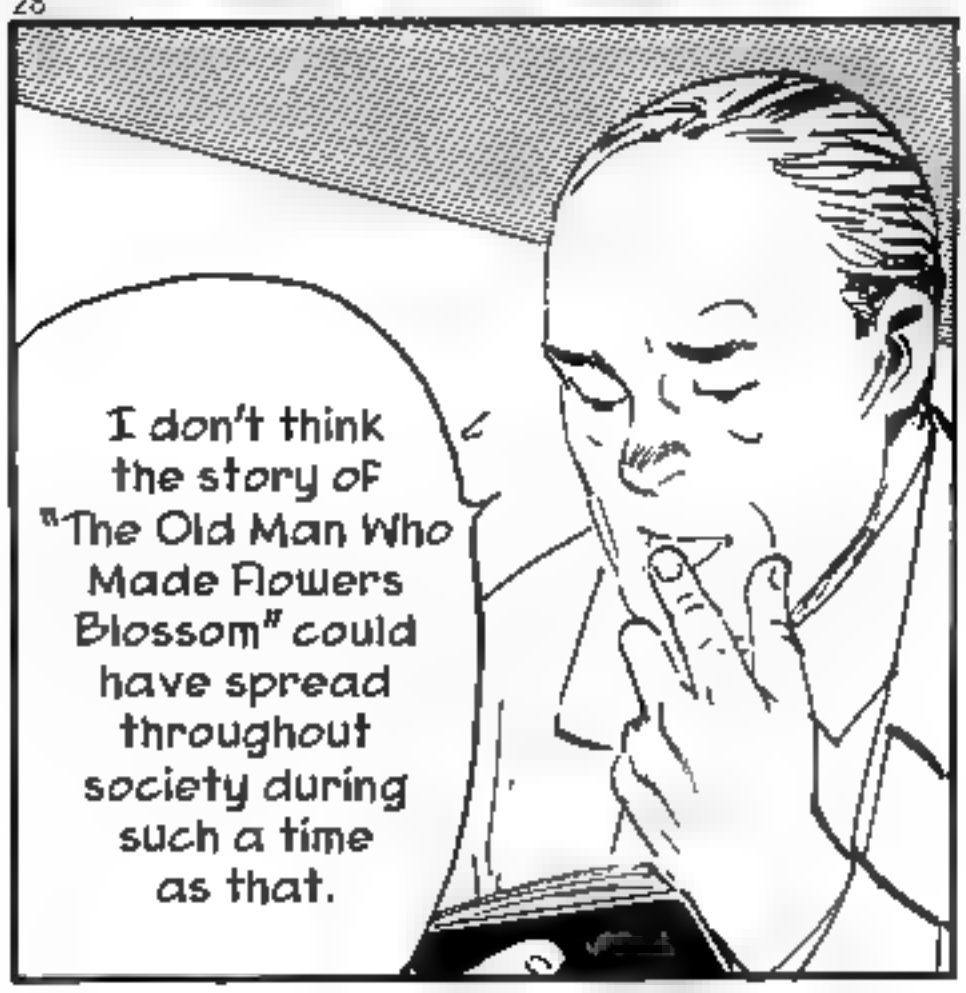
There was a serpent on top of the tree, waiting to attack the hunter

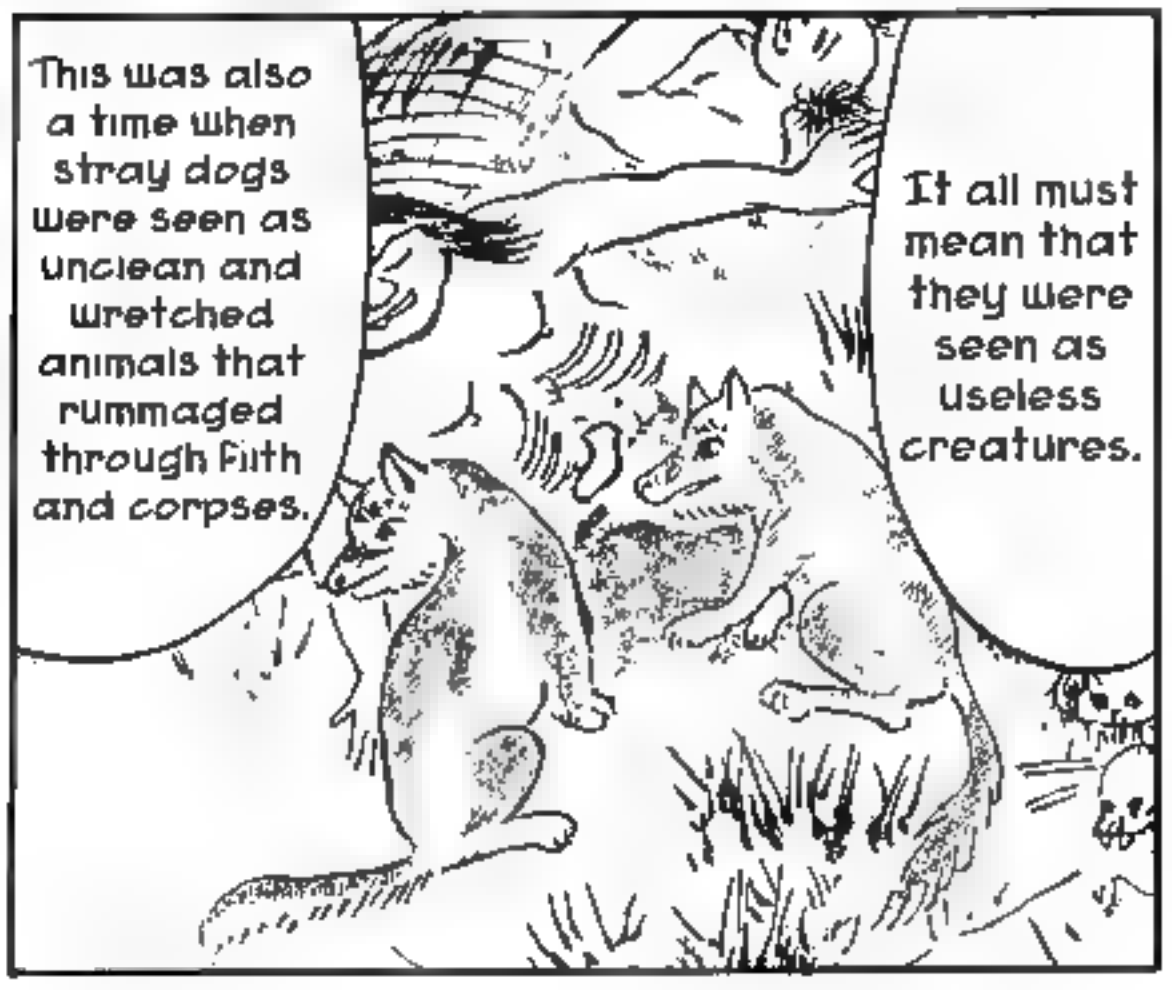
The hunter established a shrine at that tree, and revered him as the Great Dog God "Sangoku Denki"

In the culture of hunters where the Jomon traditions live on, their love for the loyal dogs has caused such legends to remain.
(株) 花崎造園


But on the other hand, among the agricultural society from the Yayoi onward, they were scorned and called "dog-beasts".


I see. Add to that all the negative connotations of "dog's death", "samurai dogs", and "howl of the underdog".


I don't think the story of "The Old Man Who Made Flowers Blossom" could have spread throughout society during such a time as that.


This was also a time when stray dogs were seen as unclean and wretched animals that rummaged through filth and corpses.
It all must mean that they were seen as useless creatures.

Since the Warring States Period, pet dogs became popular among lords and the upper classes.

And particularly when the Edo Period came...

It was an unjust law that treated animal lives more importantly than humans, but it triggered public interest in dogs once again.

there was the "Dog Shogun" Tokugawa Tsunayoshi's Edicts on Compassion For Living Things...

They even reverted to the ancient legend of the dog ancestor...

And so, the heart of the Jomon resurrected within the Japanese...

SHIRO !?

...Shiro?

Takizawa Bakin's "Tale of Eight Dogs", written a hundred years after Tsunayoshi's reign,

a story of eight dog-warriors descended from Lady Fuse of the Satomi Clan and the dog Yatsufusa, is said to have Chinese legends of dog ancestors, such as the "Myth of Panhu", underlying it.

It was collected into its current form, published, and spread throughout the nation in this very era!

So just as the story of "Gou Geng-tian" originated from the regions of China with legends of dog ancestors, "The Old Man Who Made Flowers Blossom" was born from the dog boom in the Edo Period...

...I see.

They realized that the two ancient mindsets of the Jomon and the Yayoi lived beside one another in their hearts...

Yes... The Japanese people must have realized the two opposing mindsets at this time.

That's how the Chinese-originated legend first became the Japanese story of "The Old Man Who Made Flowers Blossom"!

That's why it became a story not about brothers, but about old men that represent the ancient mindsets!

PAPA! SHIRO'S GONE!

I GOT A CALL FROM MY FRIEND, SO I TOOK MY EYES OFF HIM...

Shiro...

Good grief... Alright, I'm coming. Let's meet at the promenade.

I've been doing my own inquiry on "The Old Man Who Makes Flowers Blossom" over the past twelve years.

I have a little bit of a different theory than you do...

But thanks to you, I've gotten to hear an interesting new perspective. I have to give my thanks to Shiro For initiating this conversation...

Oh, you really don't need to...

It's alright, it's not like I'm all that busy. I'm worried that Shiro's senility may be getting the better of him...

Huh? T...Thank you.

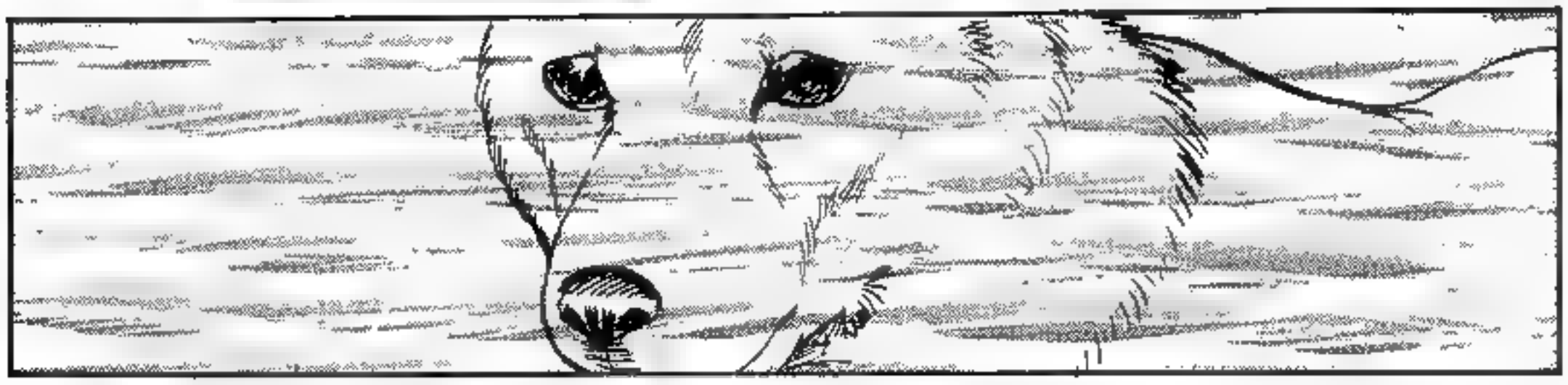
The mindsets of the Jomon and the Yayoi... This is one way in which I don't want to be like the Yayoi...

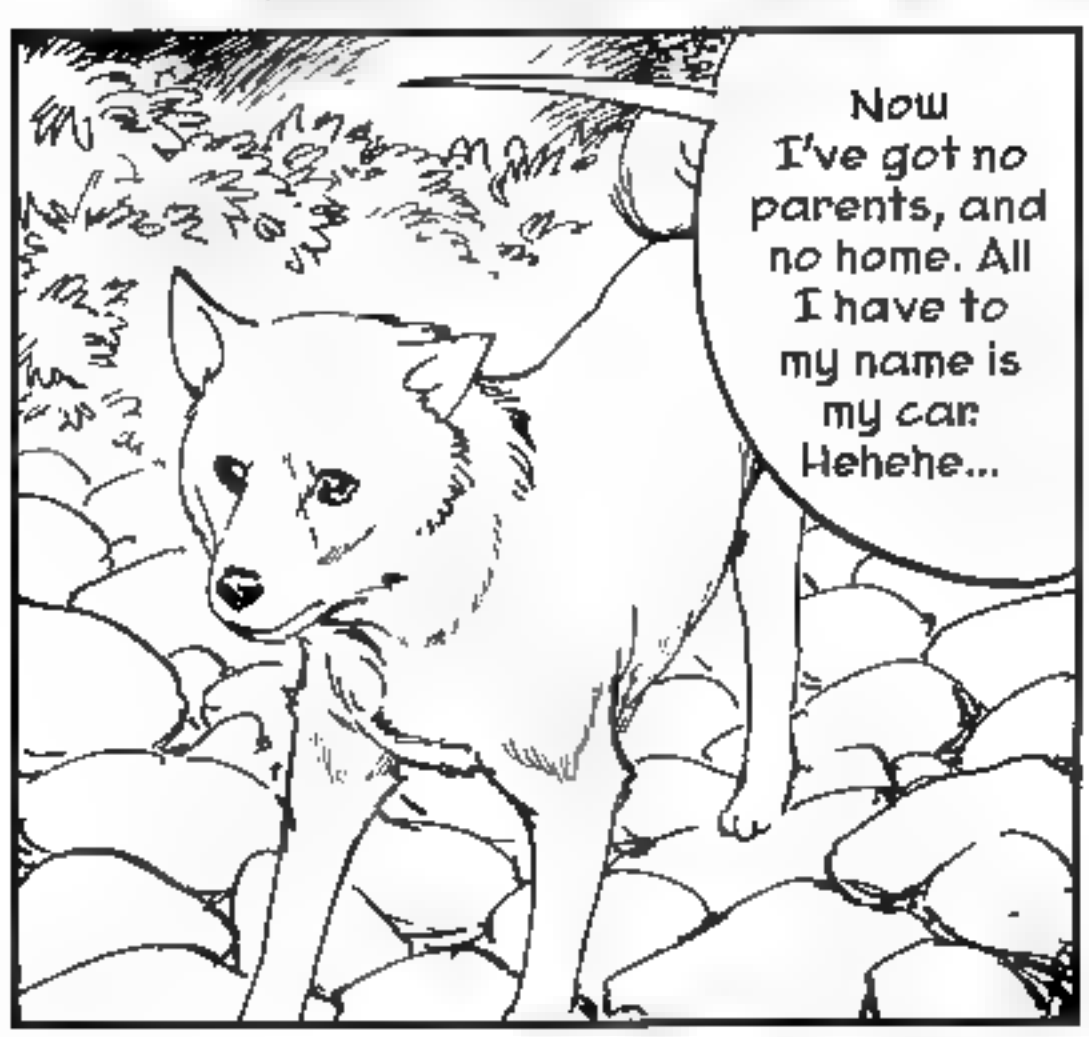
C'mon and have a bite. I was just getting bored over here.

Did the smell bring you here?

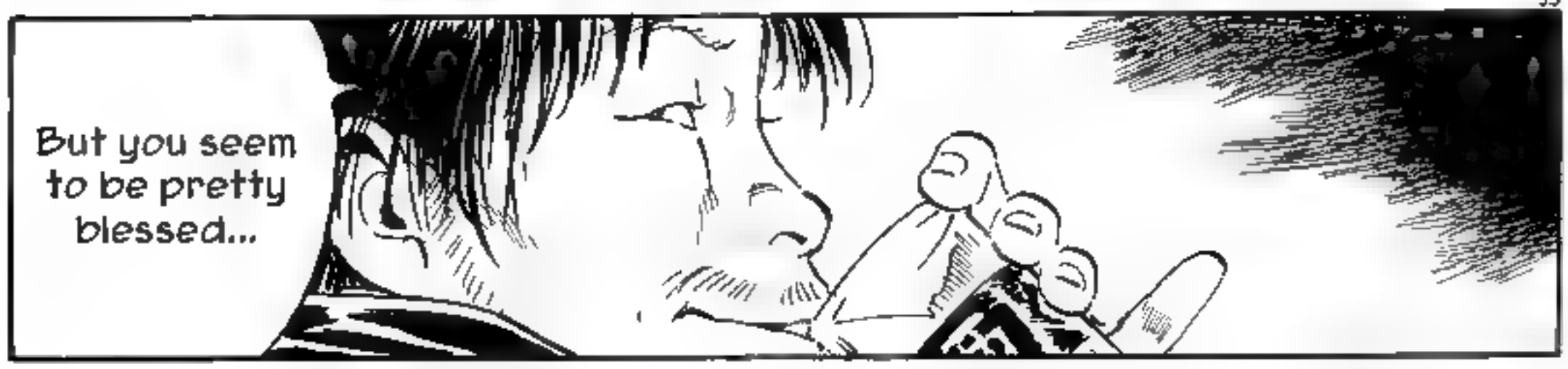
Though I did end up throwing you into the river...
I was just a kid, and my parents told me to, so I had no choice.

I remember that you got a limp in your right front leg.
I raised you for two months all those years ago, remember?




Now I've got no parents, and no home. All I have to my name is my car. Hehehe...

And nothing good happened ever since I abandoned you...
I use to live in the town of Naga-toko, just upstream of here.


But you seem to be pretty blessed...

C'mon! Let's hang out for a bit!
W... What the hell!?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING BACK AT ME!?
ARE YOU GONNA MAKE FUN OF ME TOO, YOU DECREPIT OLD DOG!?

I...I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL THROW ROCKS AT YOU LIKE I DID BACK THEN!!

BE CAREFUL, PROFESSOR! LAST YEAR'S TYPHOON TOOK DOWN A NUMBER OF TREES, AND THEY'VE BEEN ROTTING!

SHIRO !!

SHIRO!

SHIRO!

I smell... some-thing burning!

It's get-ting dark. We have to Find him soon...

WAIT, MR. HANAZAKI! SOMETHING'S WRONG!

SHIRO!!

Shit... Shit!

Sh... Shit...

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET DOWN FROM HERE!!

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Our escape route's blocked off...!

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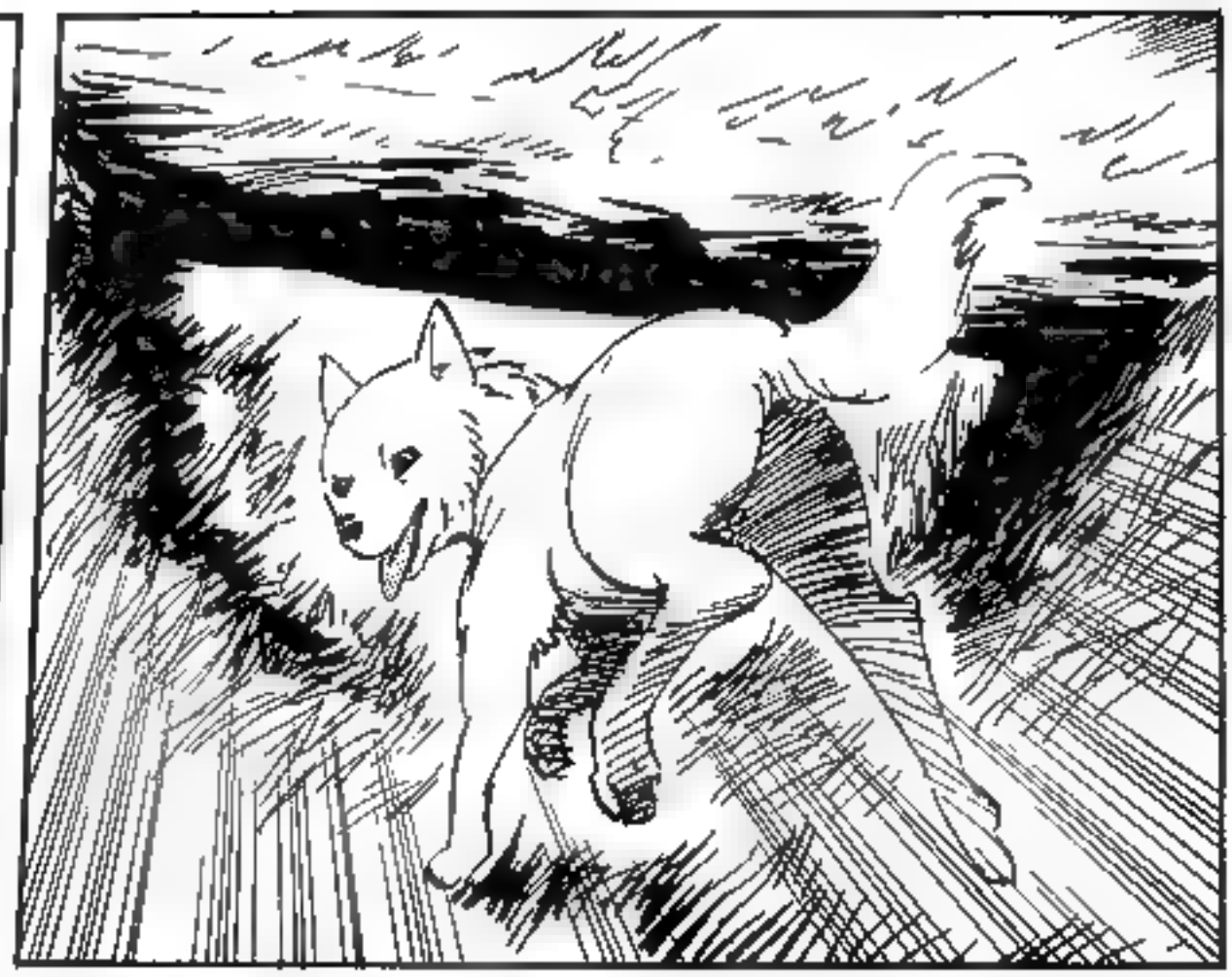
SHIRO
!!

Shiro...
?



L...LET'S FOLLOW SHIRO! KEEP LOW TO THE GROUND!

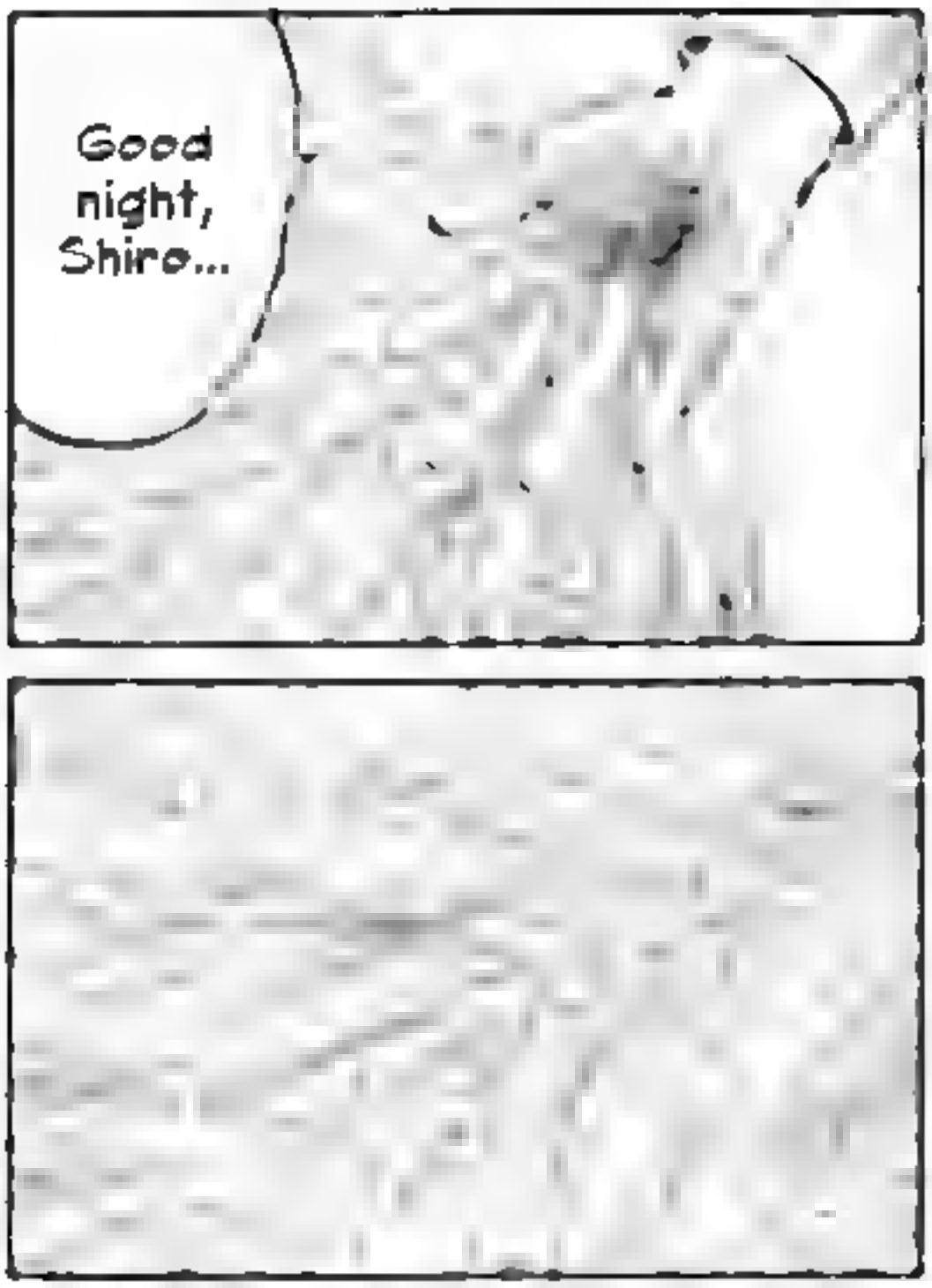
SHIRO !!

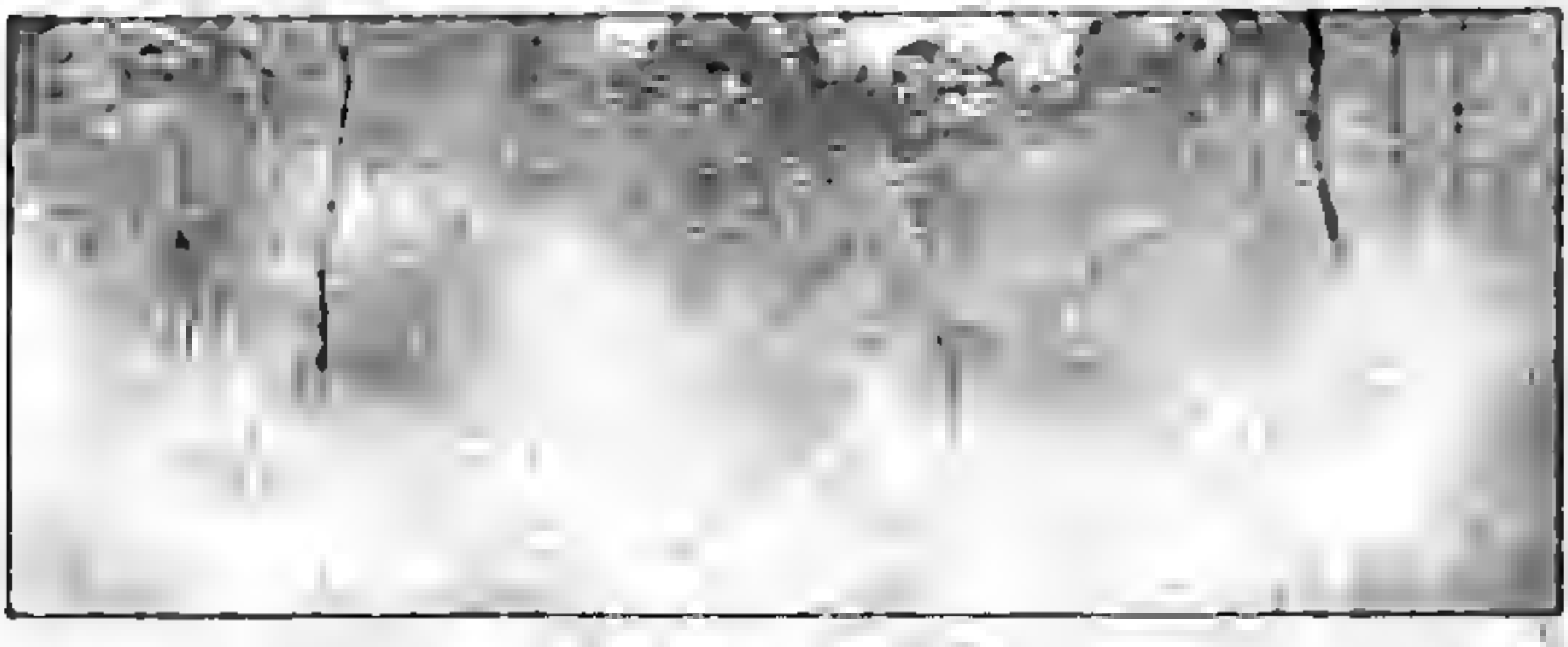
SHIRO !

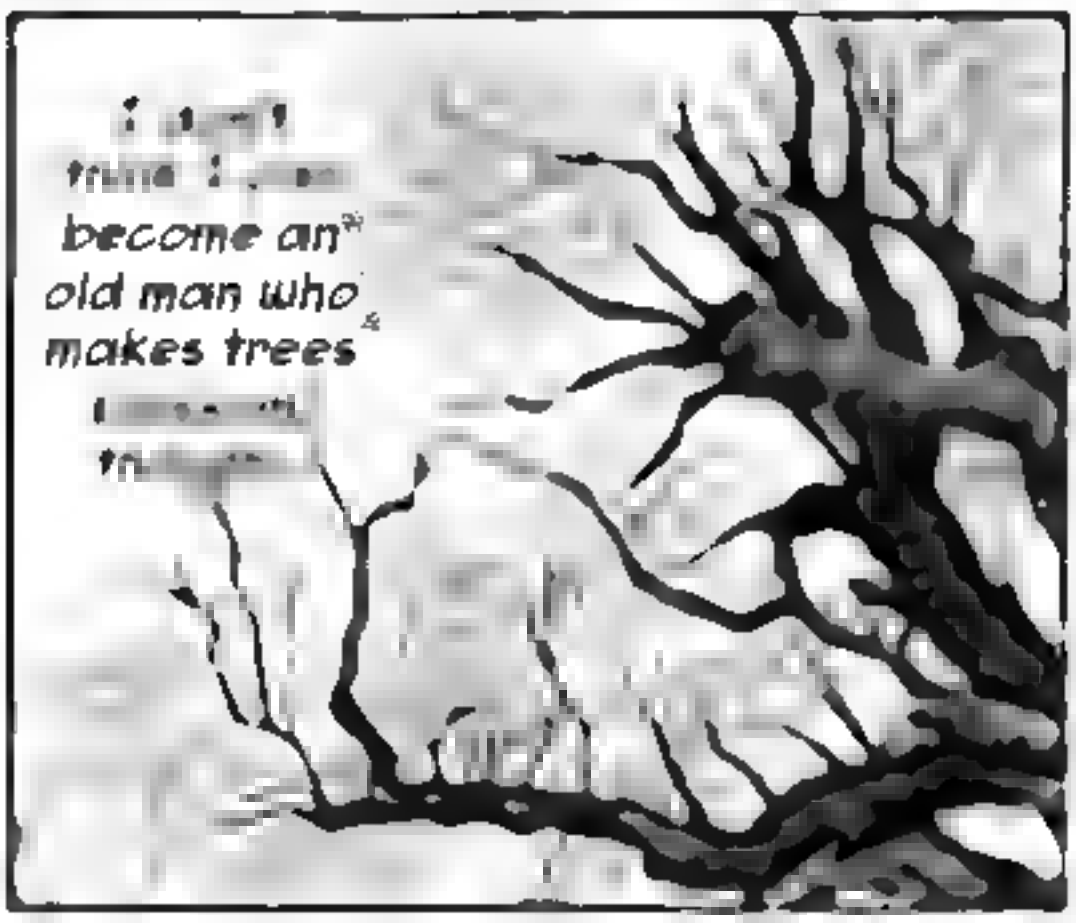
SHIRO !!

ゴゴゴゴ

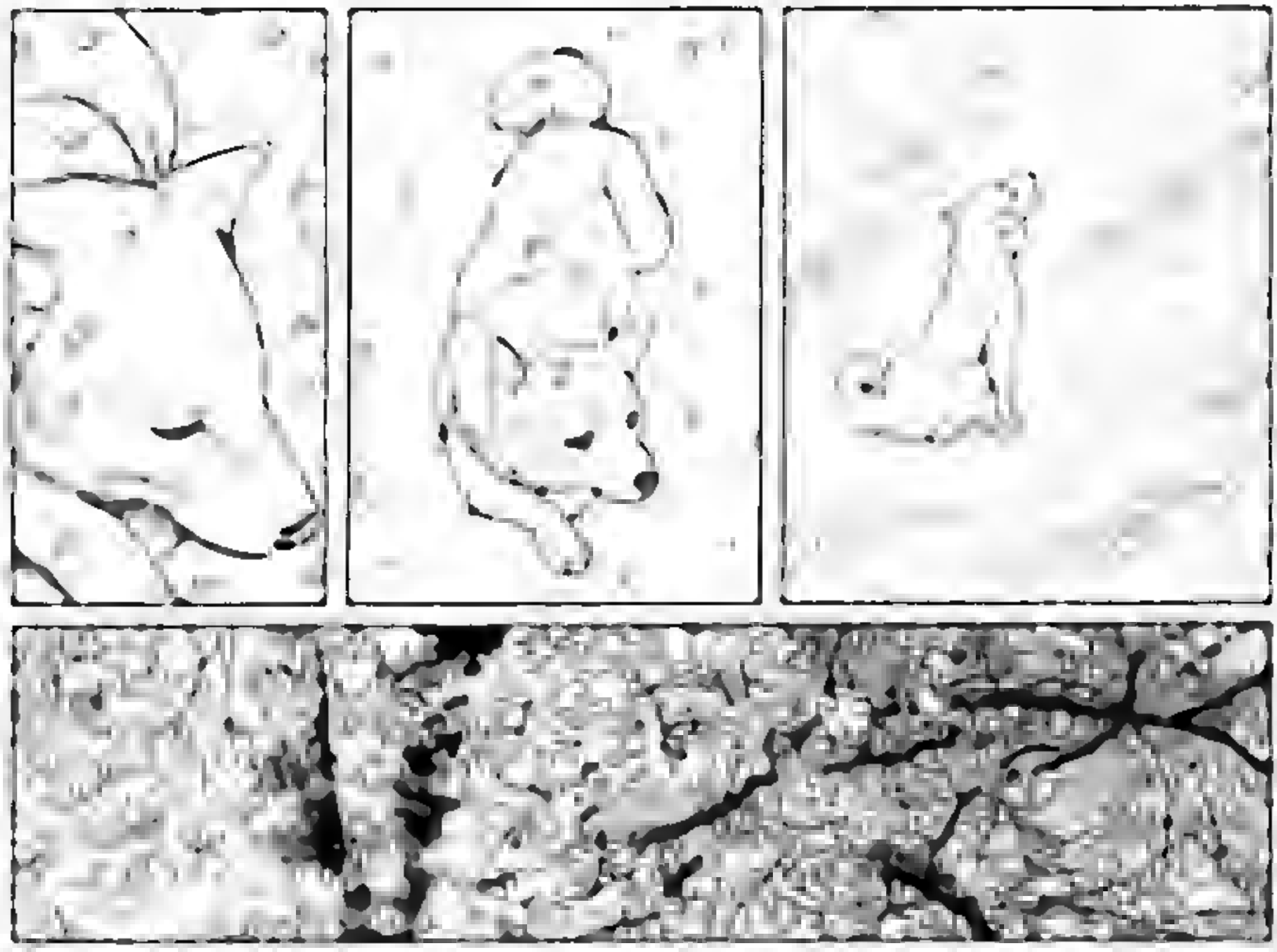
They never ended up Finding Shiro...


Good night, Shiro...




become an old man who makes trees

When I'm old and lonely, I might just get a dog.



THE OAKE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MIYAMA

CHAPTER 5

PRESENTED BY

HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY

SYSTEMATICCHAOS

EDITING BY

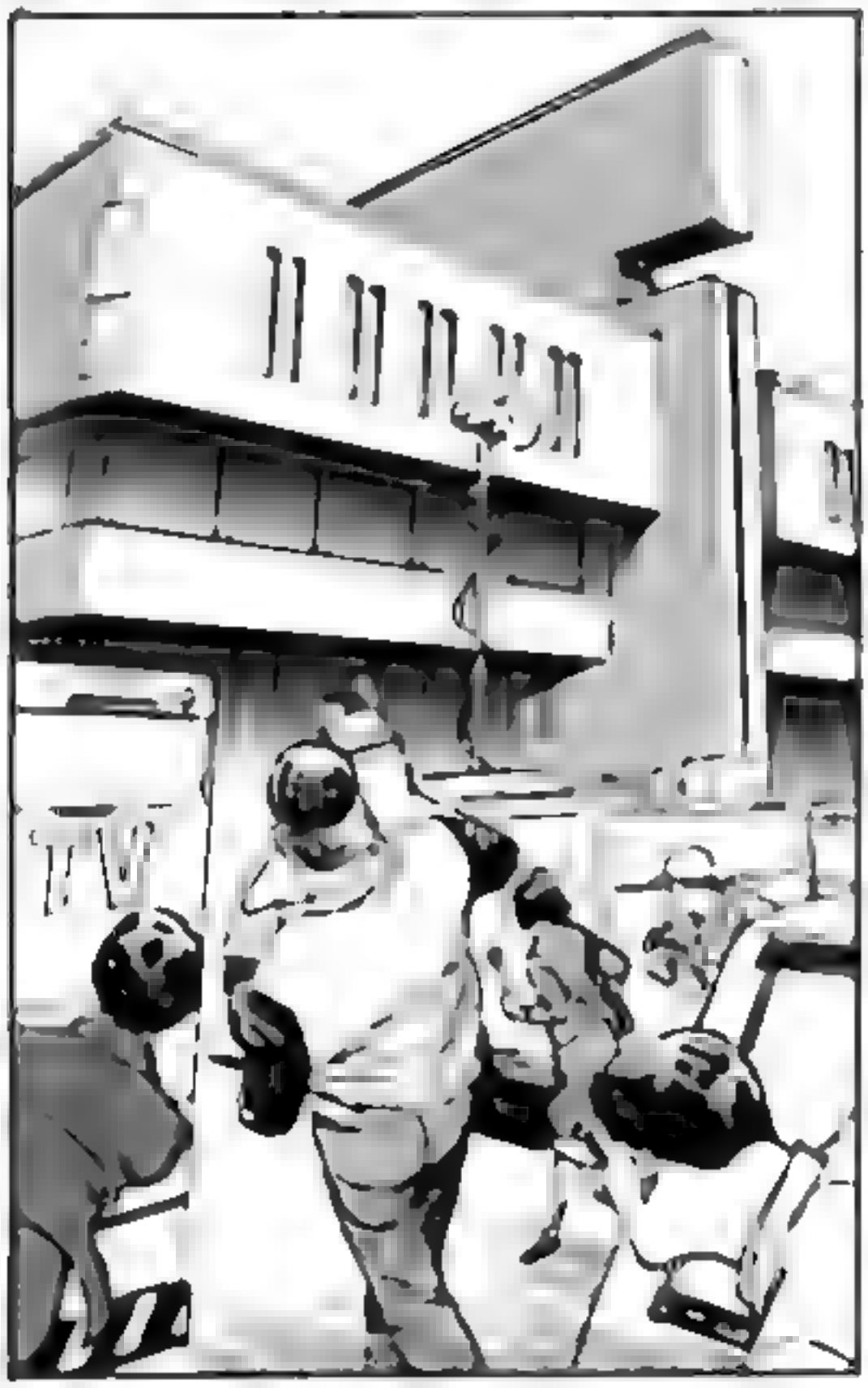
HIGHTIDE AND KAZUHIKO

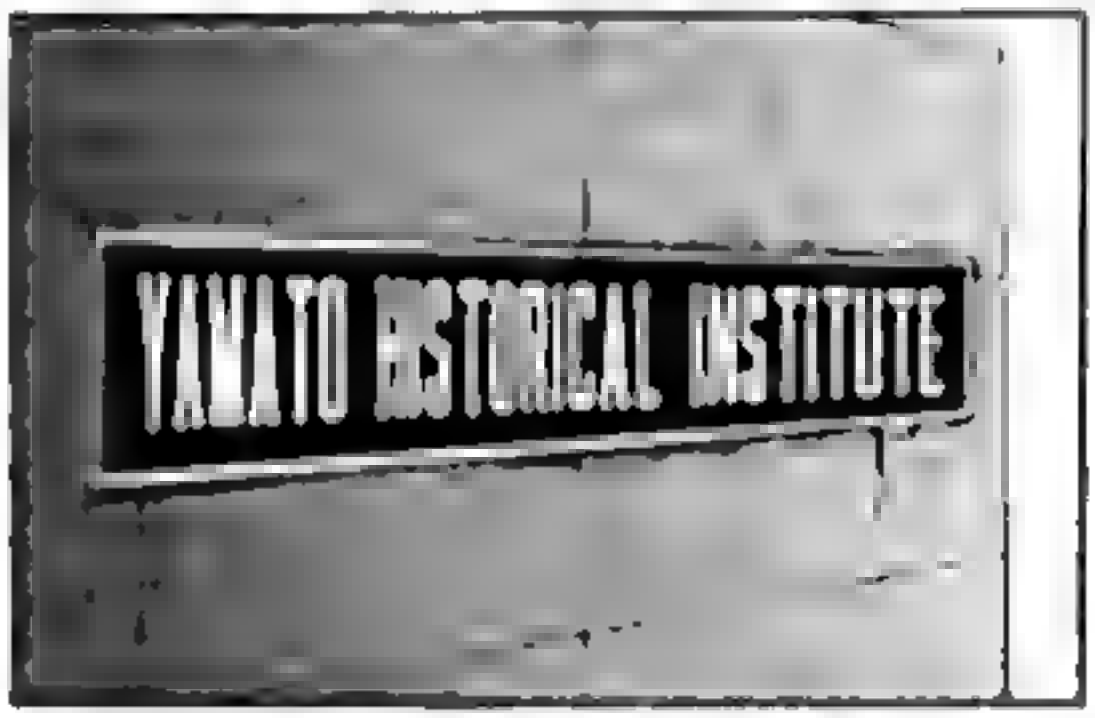
PROOFREADING BY

DESTORYERRING

CHAPTER 6: THE BROKEN MIRROR

Nara
Prefecture





宗像教授異考録 2

These are most likely the fragments of a bronze mirror brought over from the Chinese state of Wei in the early 3rd Century.

Each of the fragments comes from a separate article, and they were apparently broken during the same period.

Furthermore, we have testimony that these were exhumed from the "Hashihaka Burial Mound" in Nara Prefecture.

It was all but neglected prior to Emperor Meiji, and there were a number of burial mounds that were ruined.

Hashihaka Burial Mound, constructed during the third century, is said to be the tomb of the mythological Yamato-toto-hi-momoso-hime, so excavation in the interior of the tomb is forbidden.

How-ever...

And during the closing days of the Shogunate, someone crawled into the collapsed Hashihaka Burial Mound, and emerged with these bronze mirror fragments..

According to his account, the burial chamber is scattered with what seemed to be over a hundred bronze mirrors, with a stone sarcophagus that seemed to contain the ashes of the deceased in the center.

YAMATO HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
PROFESSOR HAJI

This means that these artifacts were provided by that intruder's grandson... He has chosen to remain anonymous...

But this is not an illegal find whatsoever.

5

Bronze mirrors from Wei in Hashihaka ...!?

It is truly a shame that we cannot verify that account...

He strongly insisted. He appears to have many more mirror fragments than this, so I trust him.

Is this donor's account reliable?

Why is he anony-mous?

Hashihaka has long since been said to be the burial mound of Himiko. Do these bronze mirrors constitute conclusive evidence!?

I think there's a significant possibility! There may have been exactly a hundred mirrors inside Hashihaka.

According to the "History of Wei", a hundred bronze mirrors were given to Himiko, Queen of Yamatai. Are you suggesting those mirrors are...!?

SO DOES THIS MEAN THAT YAMATAI WAS IN "YAMATO" ...!?

HASHIHAKA IS HIMIKO'S GRAVE

CHECK-MATE FOR THE YAMATAI-IN-KINAI THEORY

The nation of Yamatai was introduced in the "History of Wei", one of the Records of the Three Kingdoms, which told of a messenger that brought much tribute to them. Alongside the golden stamps and other treasures, there was a hundred bronze mirrors

. In the third century, there was a nation somewhere in Japan called Yamatai, ruled by a queen named Himiko. .

But where was this mysterious nation? The debate has long raged on about its location, mainly whether it was within Kyushu or the capital region of Yamato

There is a high possibility that the burial mound would include several treasures gifted from Wei

And the easiest to discover would be the massive quantities of bronze mirrors...

The definitive evidence would be the location of the burial mound of Queen Himiko, who is said to have died around 248

The bronze mirrors of Wei hold the key to solving the problem of Yamatai

RRRRRING...

It's so obvious that it's hardly worth mentioning!

...Utterly trivial! Hashihaka was Himiko's grave, and Yamatai became the Yamato administration...

My name's Toreta...

I hear you're a fellow Kyushuan, so I've got a favor to ask you...

Mu-nakata here...

We'll meet in three days, at Hashihaka Burial Mound in Nara...

Hashihaka ...!?

You want to meet me? Well, that's rather unexpected.

I'VE BROKEN THE "CODE"! I'M AT MY WIT'S END!

Hashihaka Burial Mound
Sakurai City, Nara Prefecture

Either he's delusional, or just a prankster

He has to be! I was attracted by the location of Hashihaka...

but I ended up being late for the appointment because of my hesitation!

URK
...

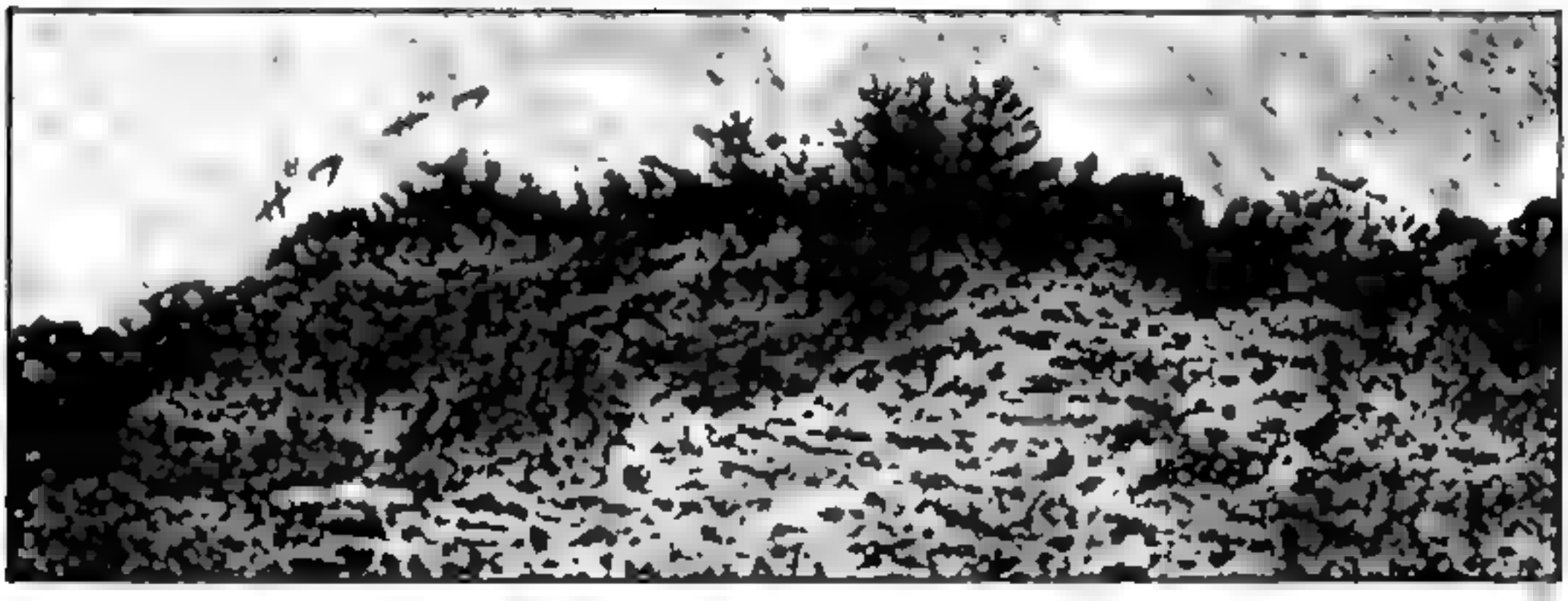
H... HEY !?

A...Aso... Yamato Village...

ASO... ARE YOU MR. TORETA !?

...A bronze mirror !?

ゴゴゴゴ


ゴゴゴゴ

He may not have died had I been there on time...

警察

We may have a few more questions for you later...

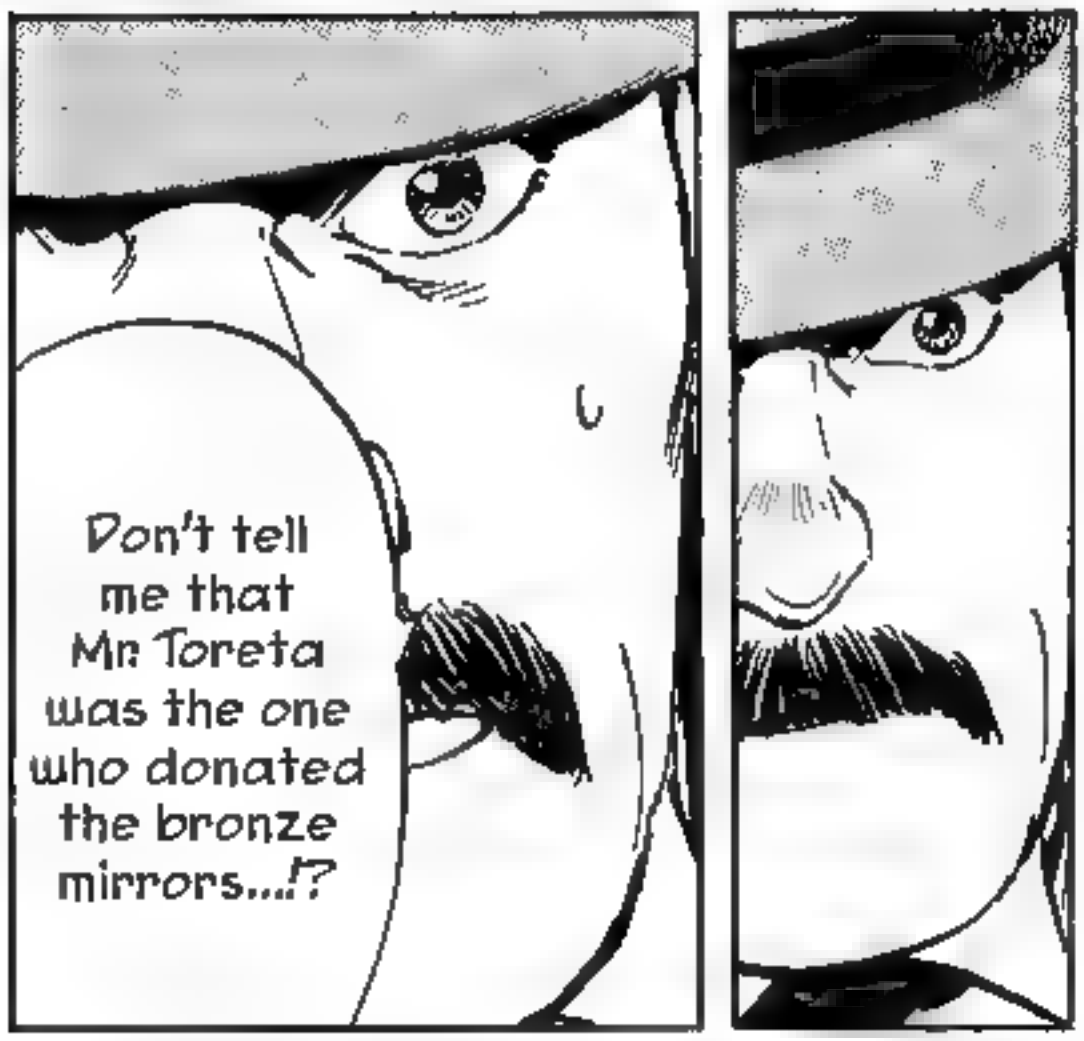
.....

But the deceased may be one of my acquaintances. Did he say anything before he died?

Ah...

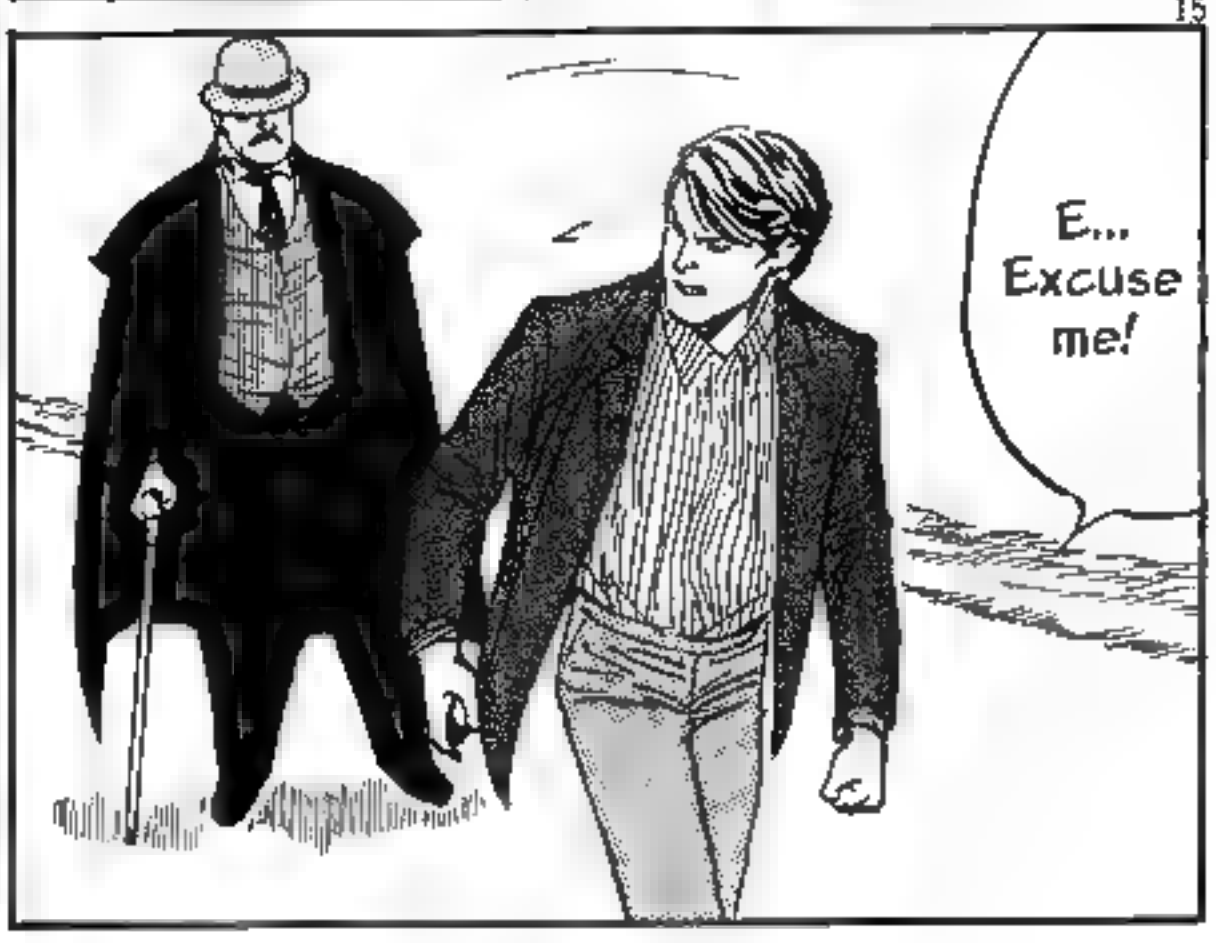
Pardon me... The police just filled me in on the situation...

Aso, Yamato Village...!?


Don't tell me that Mr Toreta was the one who donated the bronze mirrors...!?

Hmm...? Aren't you Professor Haji From Yamato Historical Institute...?

.....


E... Excuse me!

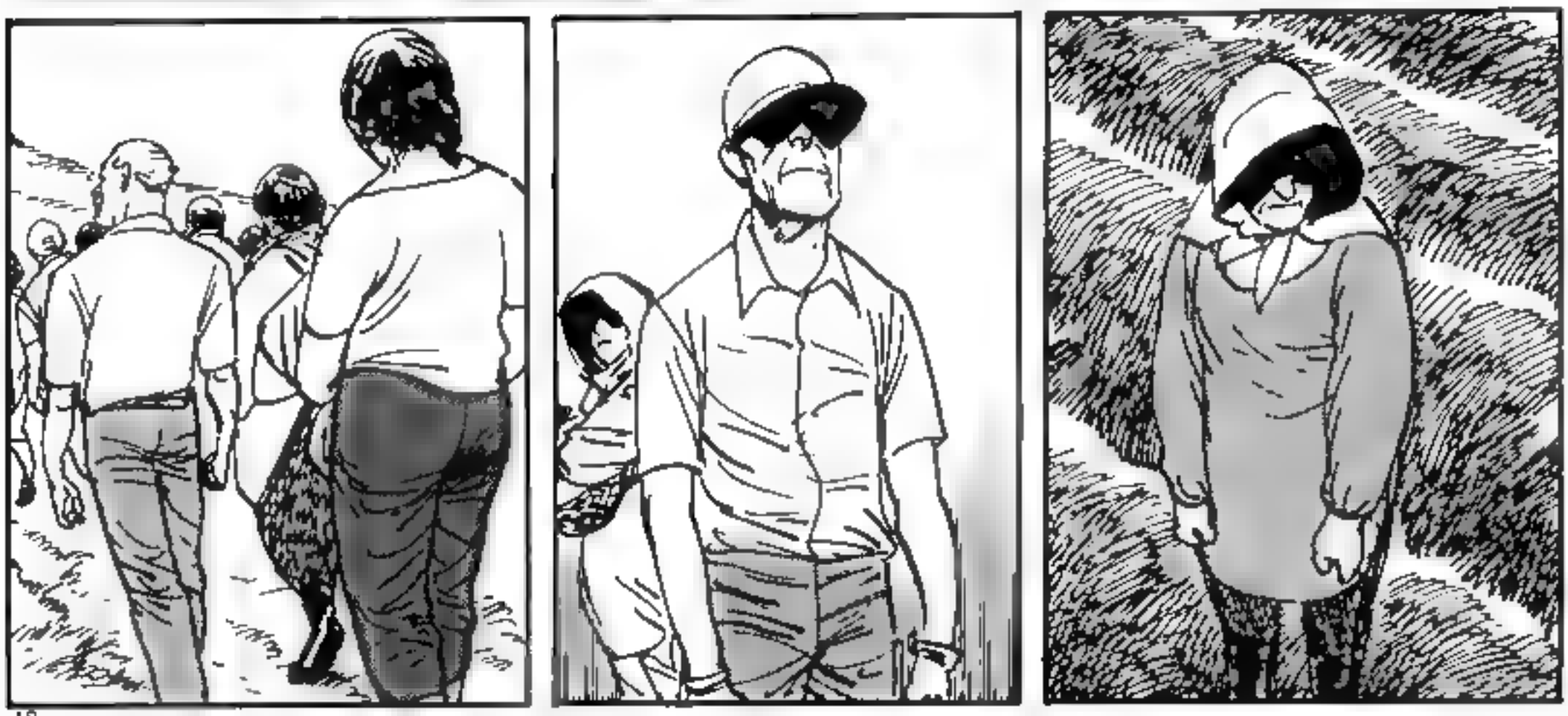
Yamato Village

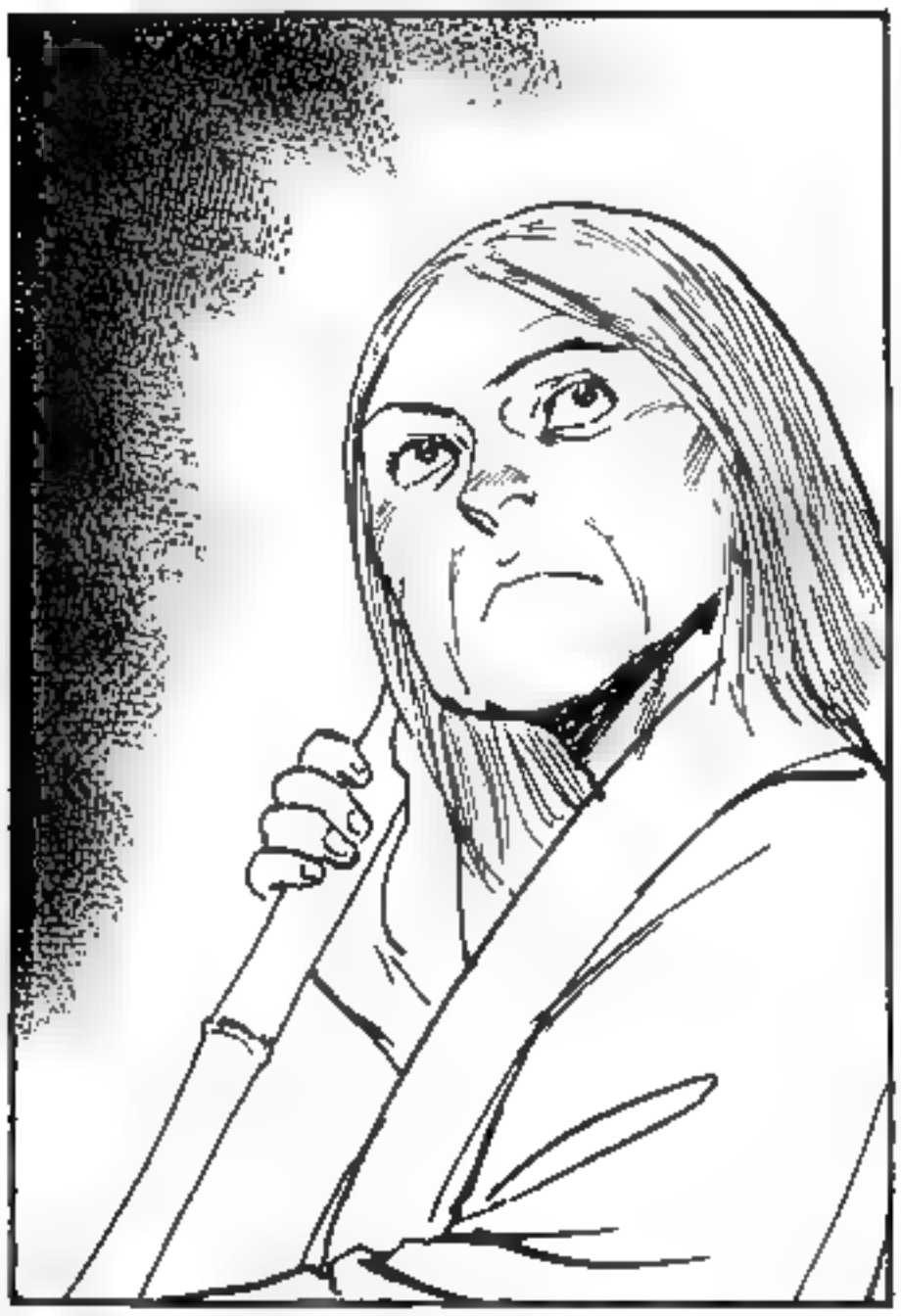
Well, it looks like this Toreta used to live in this village until just recently.

Let's search his house. I don't think we can expect much of a lead, but...

He was single with no living relatives... They all say they didn't know that he'd gone to Nara.

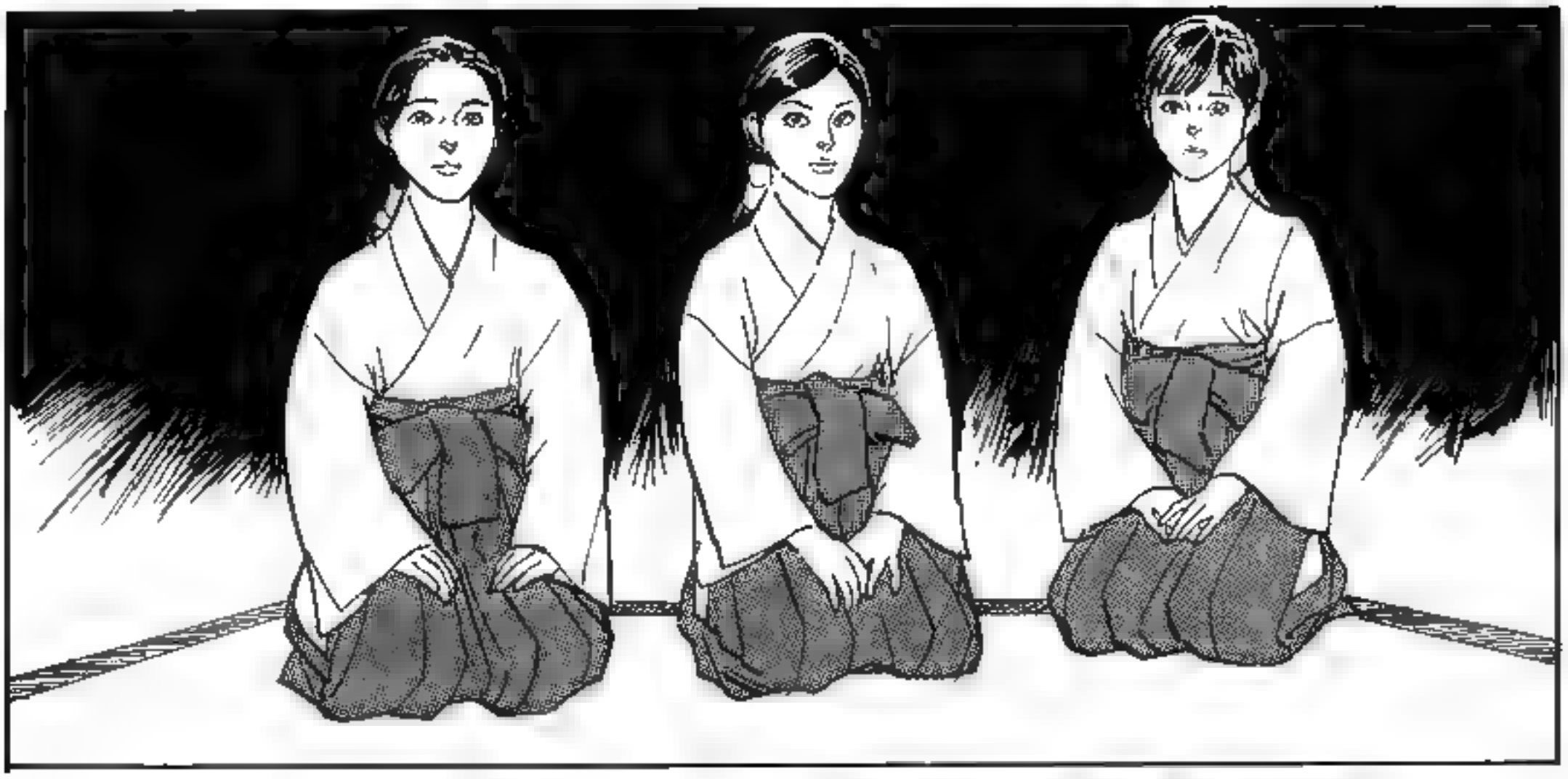
Aso, Kumamoto Prefecture

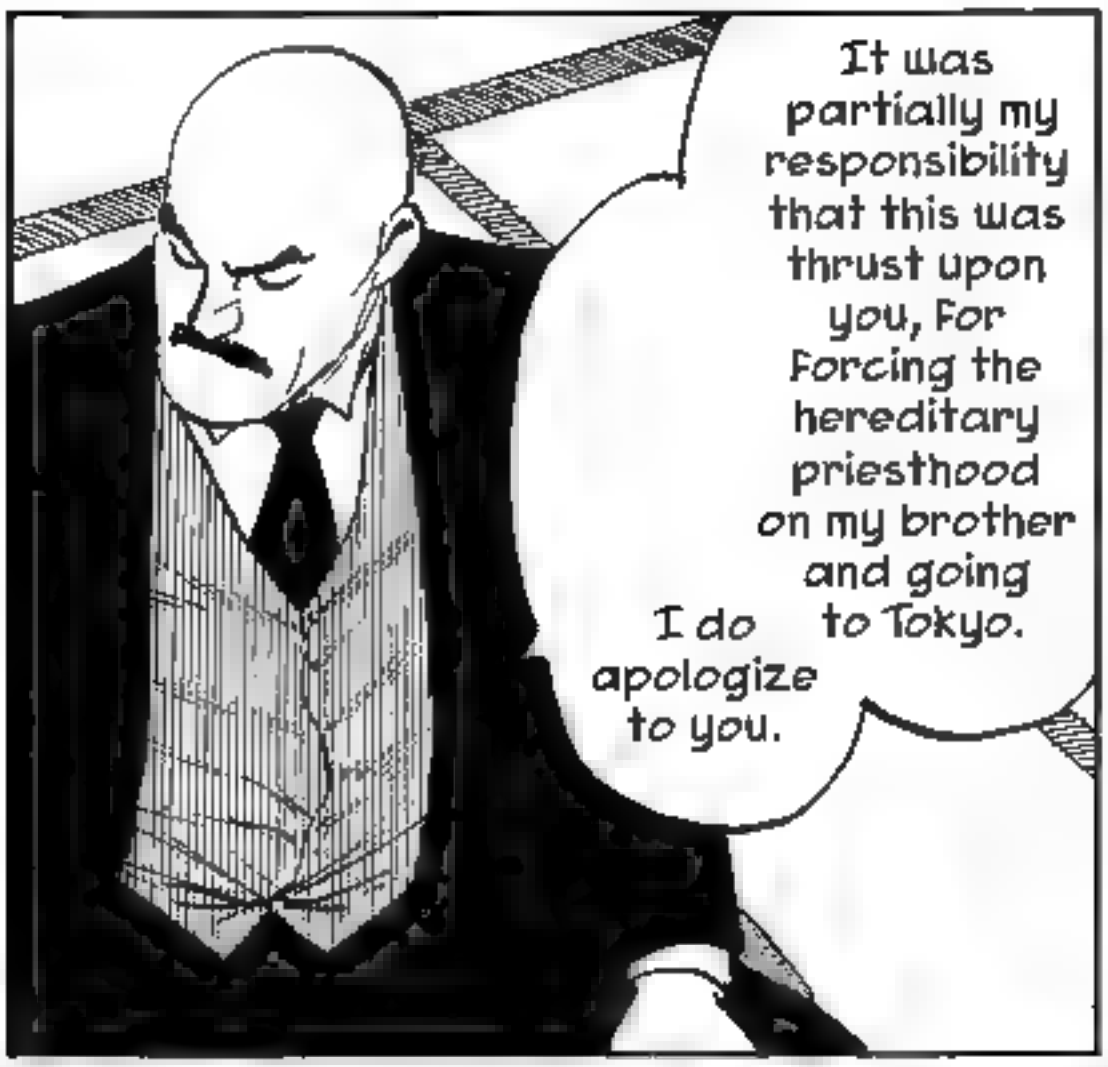




19

Munakata District,
Fukuoka Prefecture
Amateru-Hoakari Shrine




It was partially my responsibility that this was thrust upon you, for forcing the hereditary priesthood on my brother and going to Tokyo.
I do apologize to you.

Tagiri, Itsuki, Taki...
I know it's been a while since I paid my respects, but I'm glad to see you keeping this shrine up in my brother's absence.

?

It's just, Taki...

I didn't expect to hear that from you, Uncle. We're all enjoying it here.

She'll do anything for you, whether giving personal care or helping with your job.

She said she wants to assist you in Tokyo.

Come again !?

But we want at least Taki to have her way.

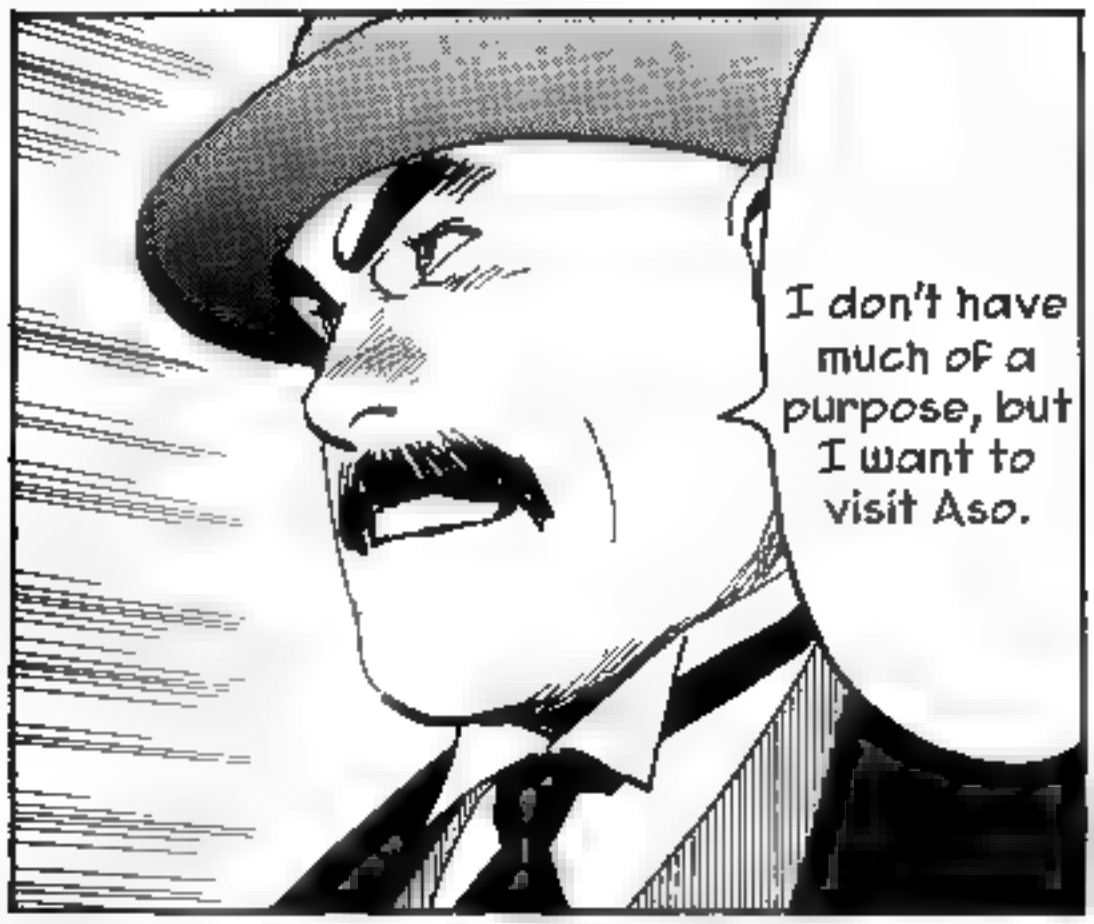
Truth is, there was once when all three of us wanted to intrude on you... Hehehe...

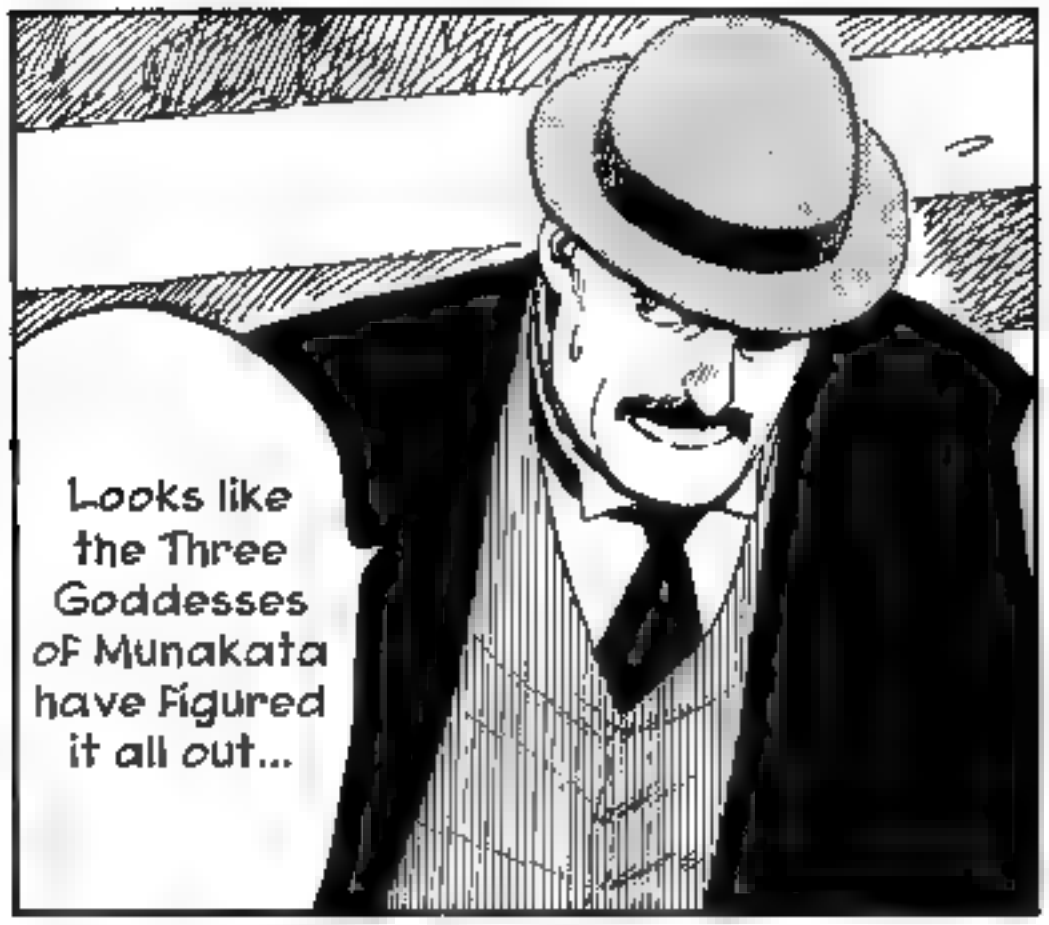
You came to visit Father's grave while you were in Kyushu, so is there something else on your mind?

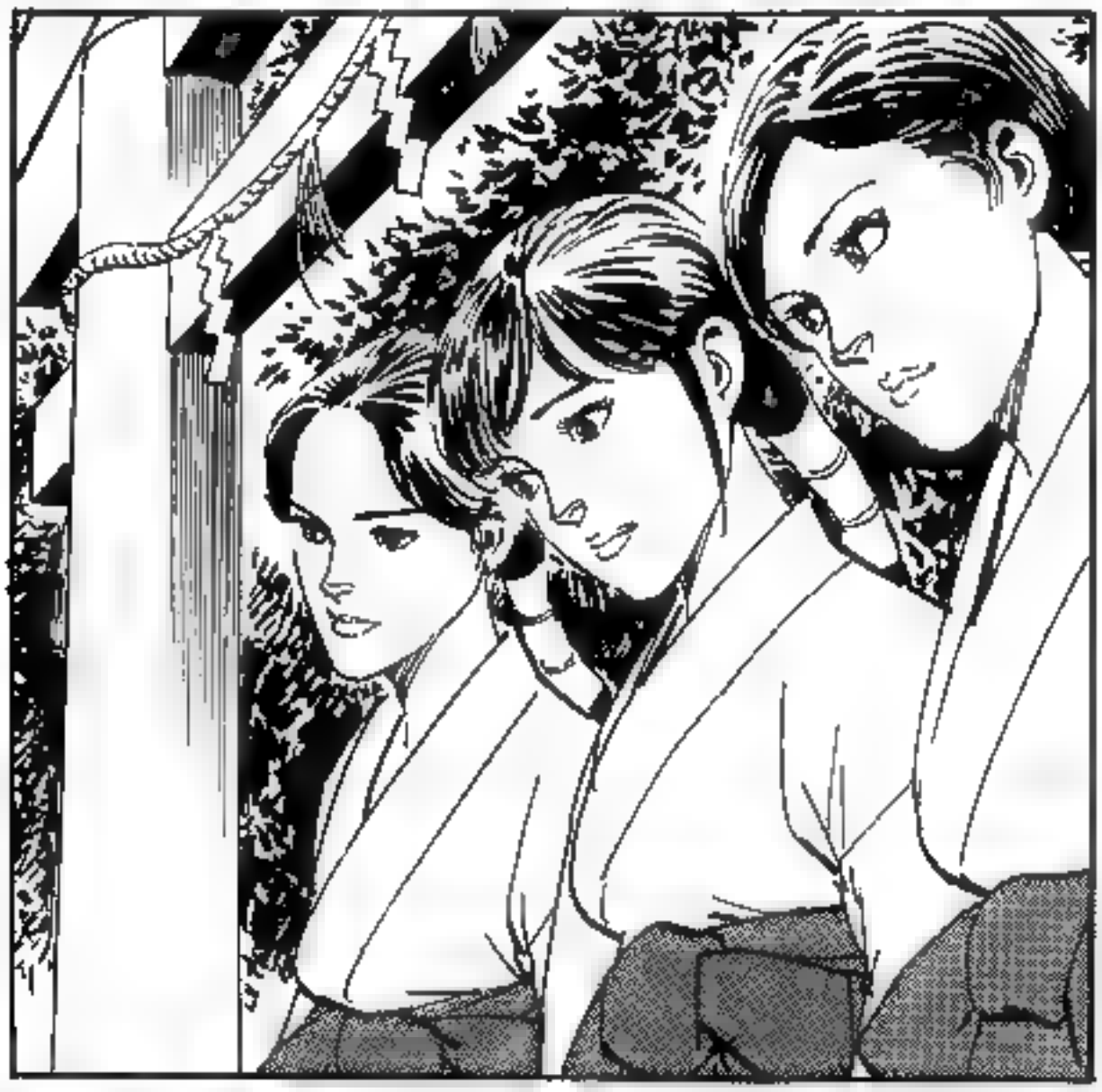
Where are you going now?

Hmmm...

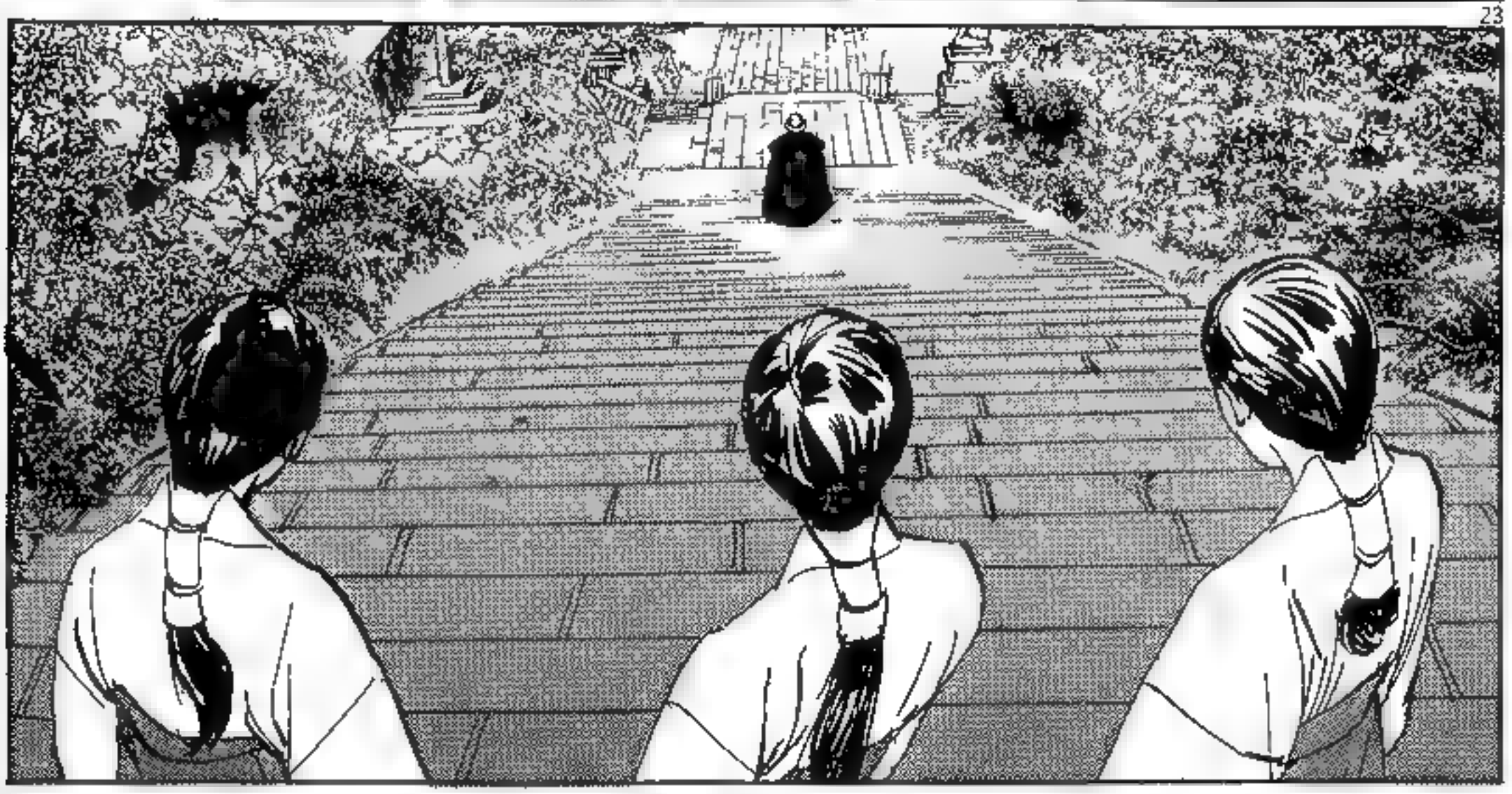
Well... I'll think about it.


I don't have much of a purpose, but I want to visit Aso.


Looks like the Three Goddesses of Munakata have figured it all out...



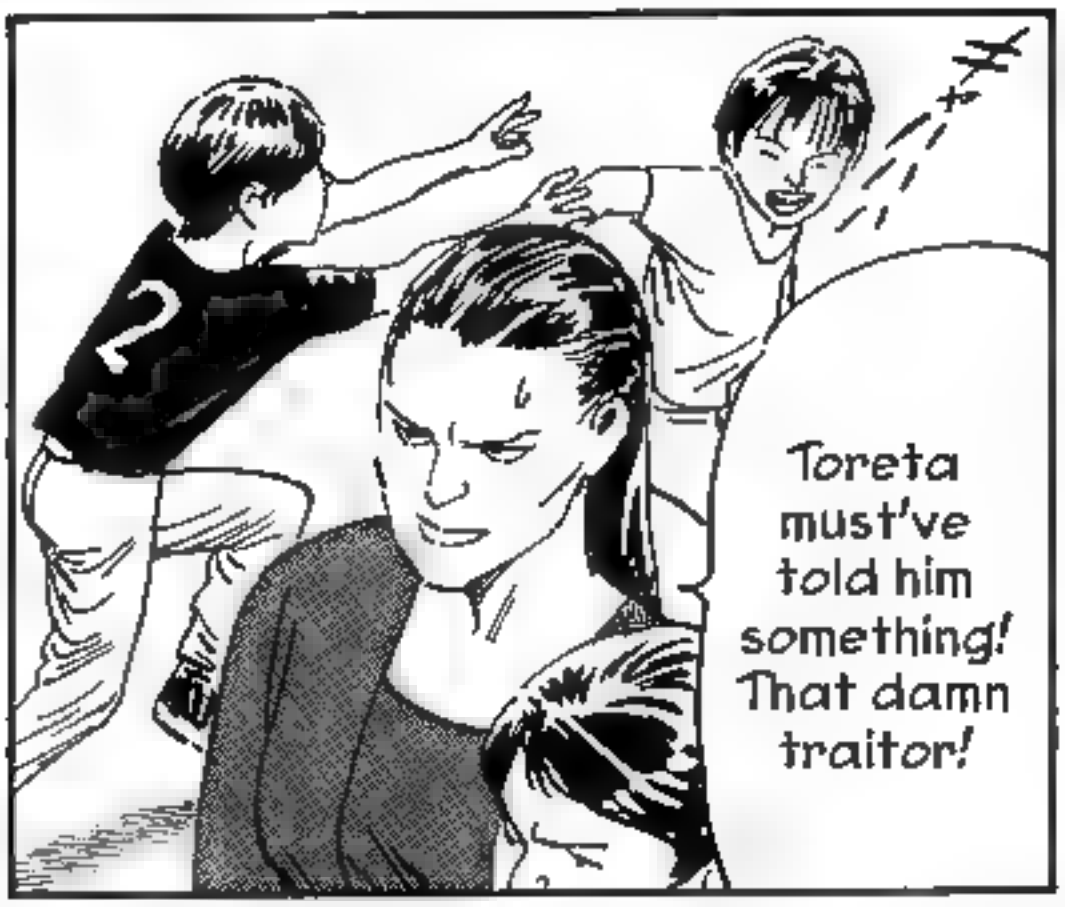
Aso...?
I'll stop by again soon.

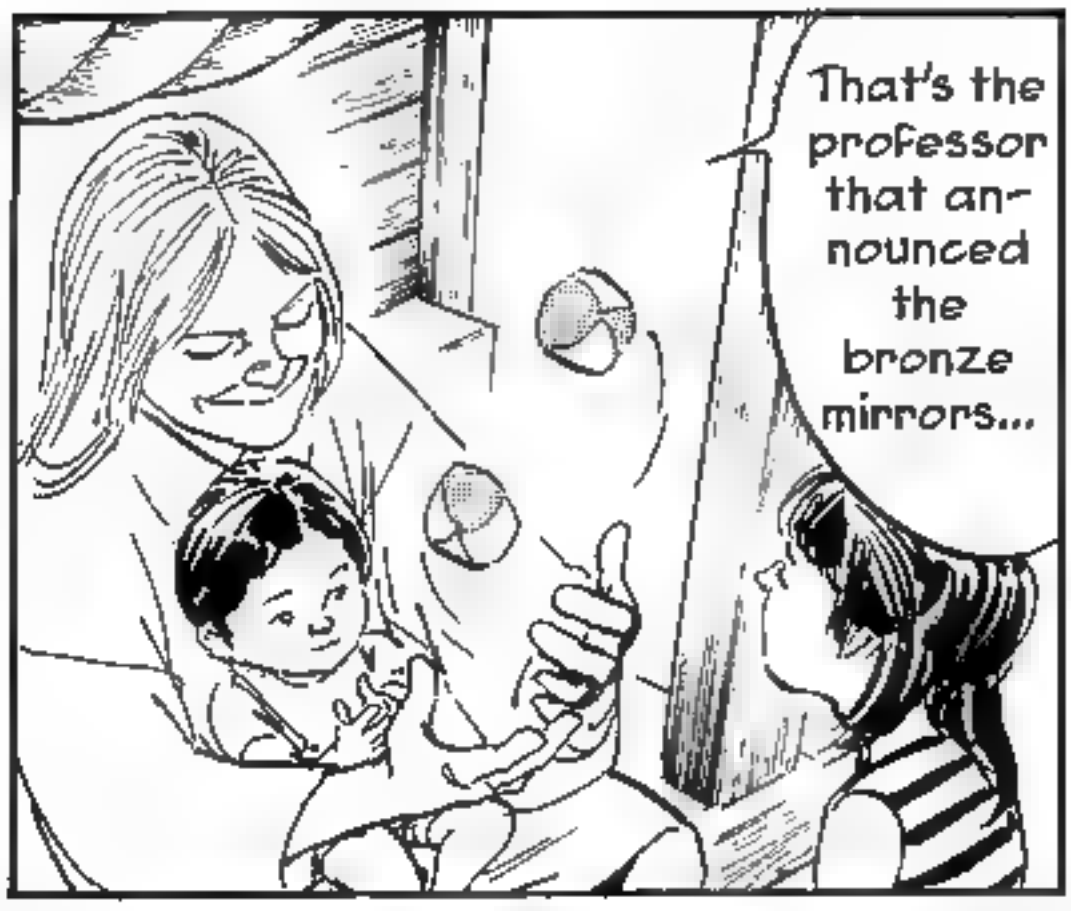


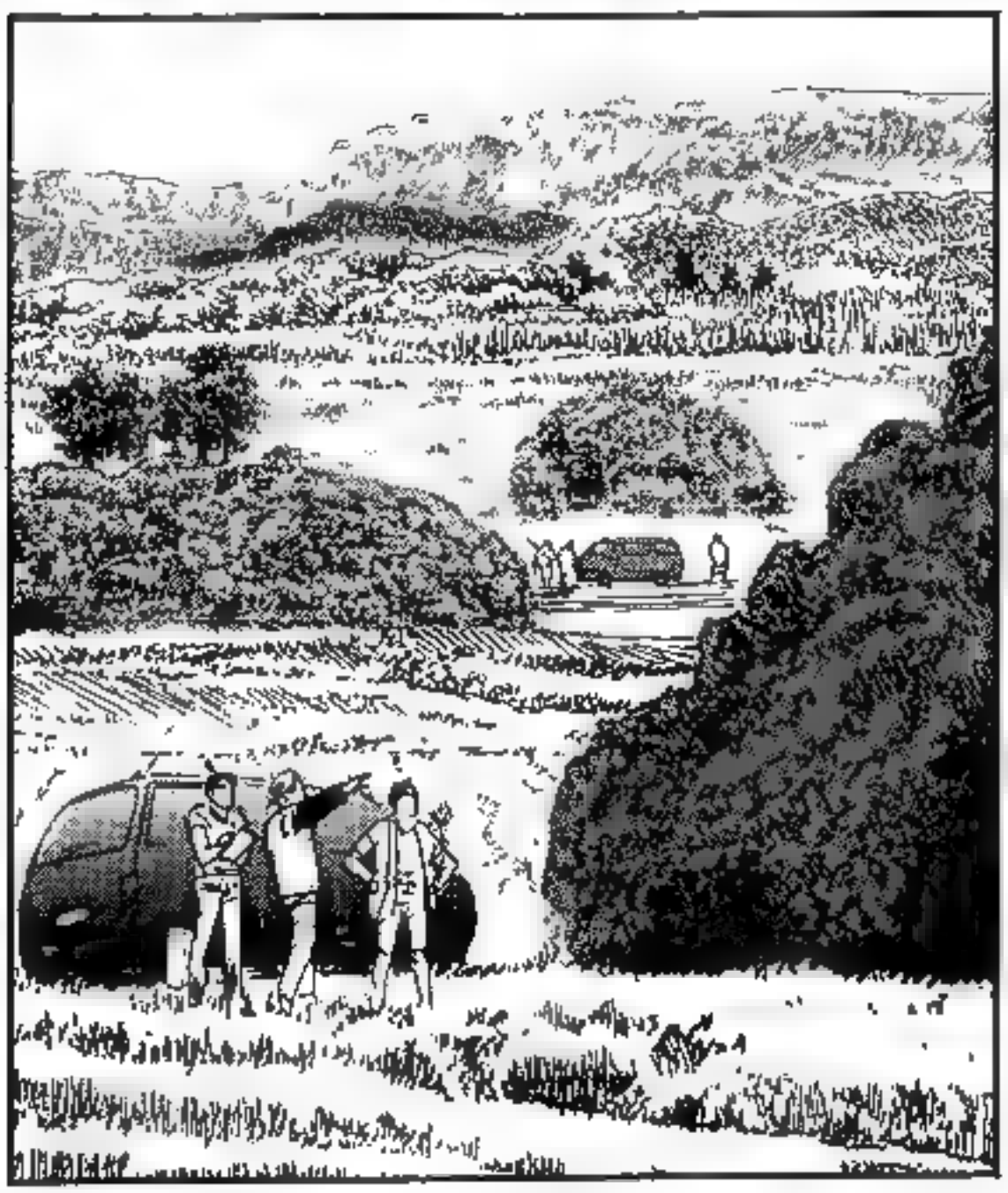
We received a call from the Board of Education.

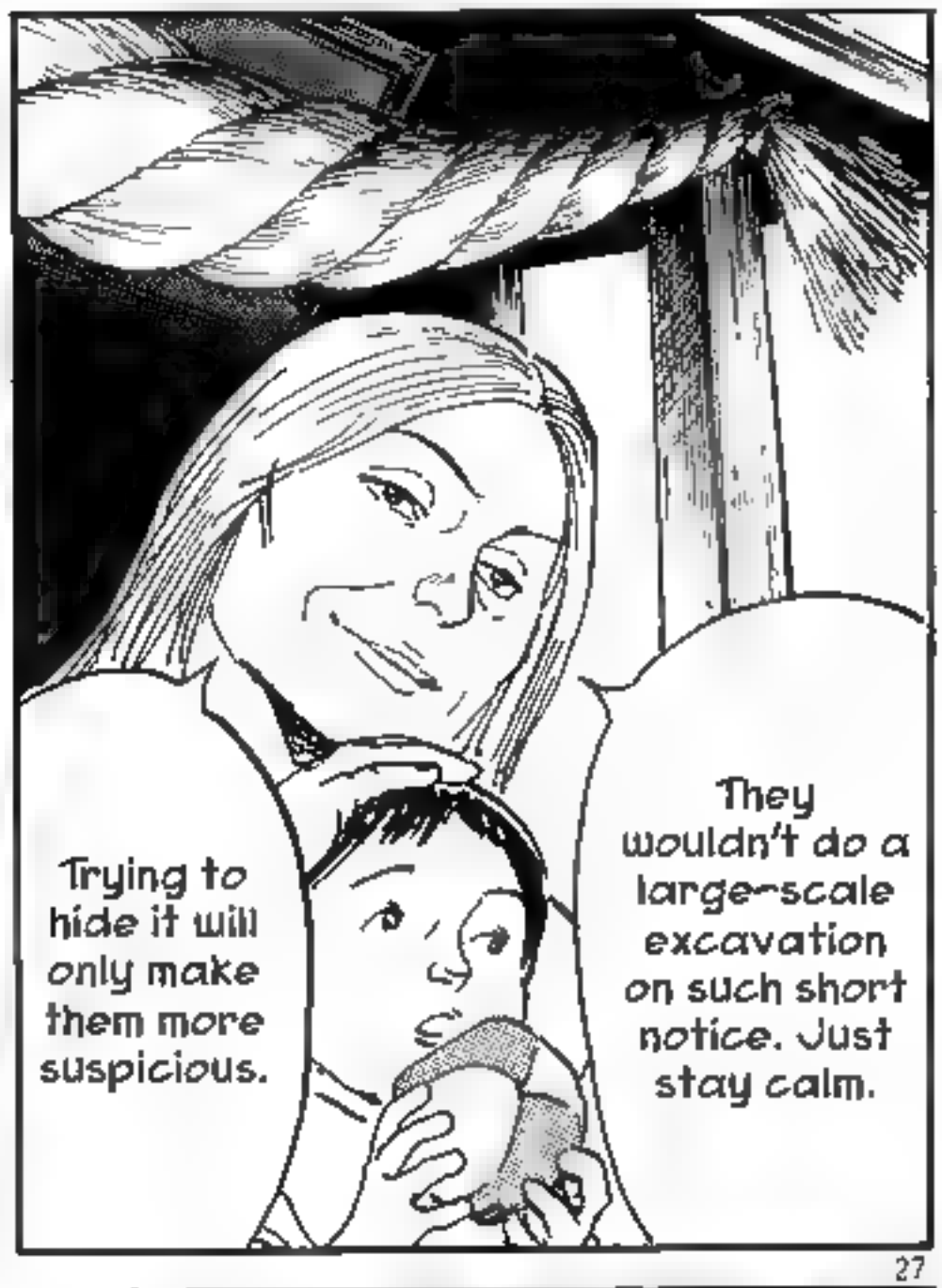
Professor Haji and his assistants and students are coming for a study of the burial mound group...

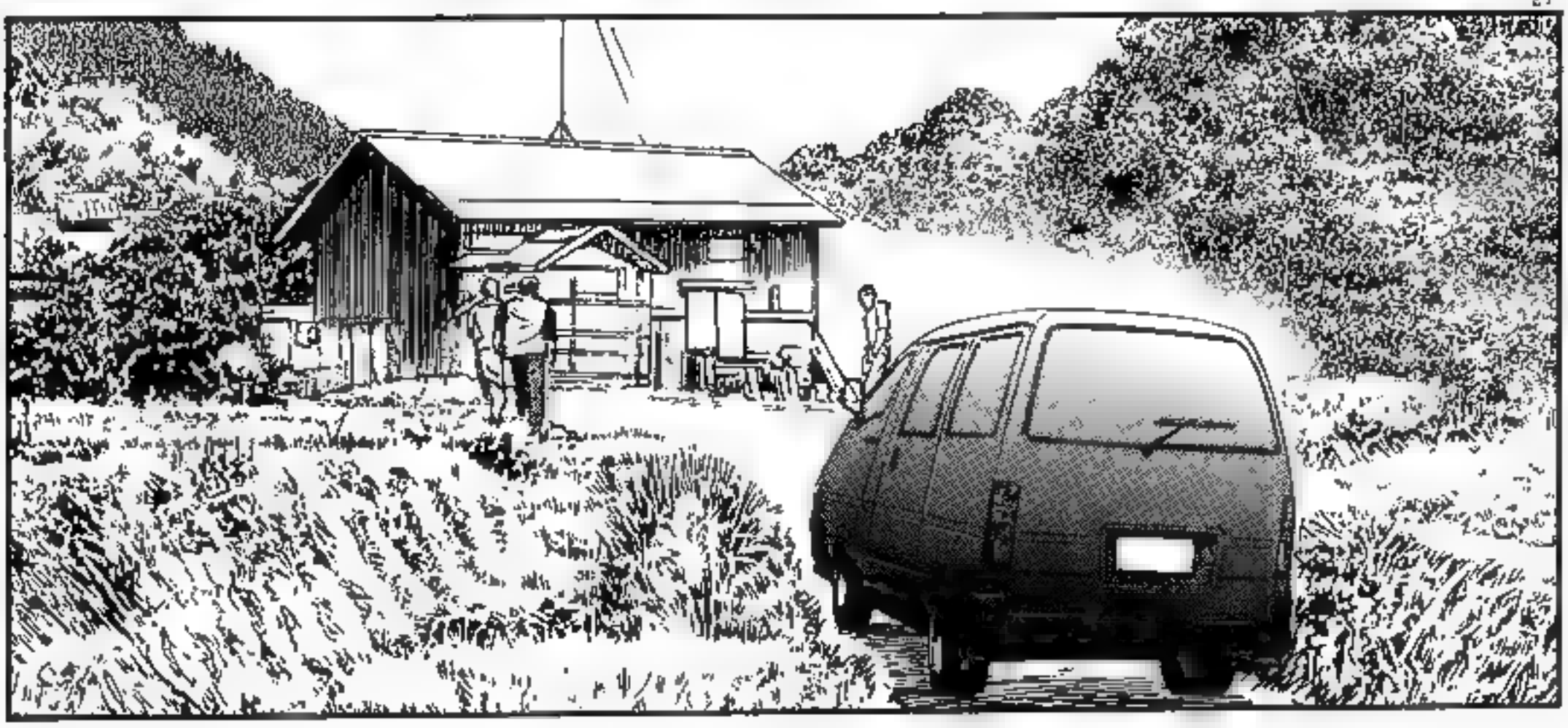
The Yamato Historical Institute is conducting a study...


Toreta must've told him something! That damn traitor!


That's the professor that announced the bronze mirrors...




Trying to hide it will only make them more suspicious.
They wouldn't do a large-scale excavation on such short notice. Just stay calm.



PING!
PING!

No response inside the house or under the floor... Professor Haji.

PING!
PING!

.....

Would that happen to be Mr. Toreta's house?

...Professor Munakata, I presume? The Folkloristics professor from the East Asia University of Culture...

Oh, I see you asked the police about me as well, Professor Haji.

Allow me to apologize for my behavior. I was quite shaken up...

I had just received the phone call from the police that the man who provided me with the bronze mirrors had died in an accident...

29

You think he had more bronze mirror fragments hidden in his house...?

Is that a metal detector...?

I was planning to report to the police if we found any bronze mirrors, but that may have been rash of me.

Morita, we're done here. Let's take a break...

Did you receive police authorization? They haven't even declared this an accident or murder yet. This could be construed as an obstruction of justice.

.....

By the way...

Alright...

If it's true that a hundred bronze mirrors from Wei were buried in Hashihaka Burial Mound in Nara, then that confirms it as Himiko's grave... And does that not prove the location of Yamatai?

What's a professor from the Yamato Historical Institute, which is touting the Yamatai in Kinai theory, doing in Kyushu?

You have a point...

But unfortunately, we're barred from excavating Hashihaka Burial Mound to back up that theory.

But with the death of Mr. Toreta, we've been in a stalemate.

The least we can do is investigate whether the bronze mirror fragments really came from Hashihaka...

And if others exist, to gather and analyze as many as possible, and build up circumstantial evidence.

I came to Kyushu because I happened to receive a call from Higo University, to cooperate in their study of the Aso Burial Mound group.

It's not very common knowledge, but there's a few dozen burial mounds hidden in the outer rim of the Aso Caldera.

.....

Those bronze mirrors were said to be the key to the Yamatai debate, but it looks like it's not that simple.

And if it turns out that these particular mirror fragments were stored in Kyushu, that would make things even more complex.

But there were too many of them, and there was a strong theory that they were domestically produced, so they couldn't clinch the theory.

The "triangular-rimmed gods-and-animals mirror" that was frequently excavated in the Kinai region were once thought to be the mirrors from Wei...

Are you saying that the bronze mirror was actually in a burial mound in Kyushu...!?

But even so, Mr. Toreta said that the bronze mirrors came from Hashihaka in Nara!

If they were really from Kyushu, he'd have no reason to lie about it!

Kinai researchers all support the Kinai theory, and Kyushuans support the Kyushu theory... And aren't you a Kyushuan yourself?

Yamatai theorists for centuries have had a tendency to argue that it's located in their hometown.

...Hmm ...

What I'm trying to say is that Kyushu and Kinai are bound in a relationship defined by shades of grey.

Take myth-ology, for instance ...

"The Descent of the Heavenly Grandson"... The Heavenly Grandson Ninigi no Mikoto and his retinue were said to have descended from Takamagahara to Takachiho in Kyushu.

He then settled in Hyuga (Miyazaki Prefecture) for four generations.

In the fourth generation, Kamuyama to Iware biko no Mikoto led his army out of Hyuga, in search of new lands

After a long battle, his army landed in Kumano on the Kii Peninsula, and built a nation in the land of Yamato .. This is known as the myth of the first emperor "Jimmu's" East ern conquest.

It's self-evident that there must have actually been a historical connection between them.

It's a myth of the beginning of the Imperial Court. They could have said that he descended in Yamato to begin with, but For some reason, they begin telling the history From Kyushu...

Mt. Mikasa
Mt. Kasagi
Tahara
Yamada
Kami Yamada
Mikasa
Ikeda
Mitsui
Miwa
Amagi
Mt. Toya
Oda
Asakura
Takada
Haki
Ukiha
Mt. Takatori
Hoshino

Kasagi
Mt Mikasa
Mt. Kasagi
Ikeda
Tahara
Mitsui
Kami Yamada
Yamada
Oda
Mt. Tomi
Yamato-Takada
Miwa
Haibara
Asakura
Yamato
Mt. Otowa
Mt. Takatori
Yoshino

Aso

There is also a strange parallelism in their place names. Particularly in the Amagi City area of Fukuoka and the Sakurai City area of Nara...

Kami Miwa
Yoshino
Miwa
Ise
Mt. Shimizu
Isuzu River
Yoshino
Hinata
Isegahama
Hinata
Isuzu River
Mt. Omori
Shimizu
Kumano
Mt. Omori
Mikizaki
Kizaki
Kumano
Taka-hara
Takaoka
Takaoka
Ichigi
Ono
Udo
Udono
Ono
Mt. Kasagi
Ichiki
Mt. Kasagi
Kushima
Kushimoto

The same goes for Hinata, the starting point of the Jimmu's easternconquest, and Kumano, his landing

御笠山
笠置山
田原
御笠
山田
上山田
池田
三井
三輪町
甘木
鳥屋山
小田
朝倉
高田
杷木町
浮羽町
上三輪
吉野
雷取山
星野
清水岳
五十鈴川
伊勢ヶ浜
大森岳
高原
木岡
大野
串本
笠置山
笠置
三笠山
笠置山
池田
田原
三井
上山田
山田
織田
鳥見山
大和高田
三輪町
桜原町
大和
朝倉
音羽山
高取山
吉野
三輪
伊勢
吉野
日向
五十鈴川
清水
大森山
三木崎
高原
熊野
高岡
市木
大野
笠置山
串本

If they migrated from Hinata to Kumano, then built a New Yamatai in Yamato...

What if, amidst the turmoil, the Nation of Yamatai in Kyushu divided, and the people who followed the new king began a mass migration to Yamato?

The fact that the place names are parallel over such a wide range suggests that a large number of people migrated between them over a long period of time.

Queen Himiko died around 248 CE... According to the History of Wei, the nation was in turmoil following her death.

That's a convenient compromise between the Kyushu and Yamato theories...

The "Eastern Migration of Yamatai theory", eh?

If this is true, then Aso would have had to be a waypoint in the move from the original Yamatai in Fukuoka to Hinata...

Professor Haji, let's move on to Nagamezuka Burial Mound!

Right... I've got to get back to my study. So long...

38

No, judging by the burial mound group, Aso may have been a part of Yamatai...

Excuse me, sir ...

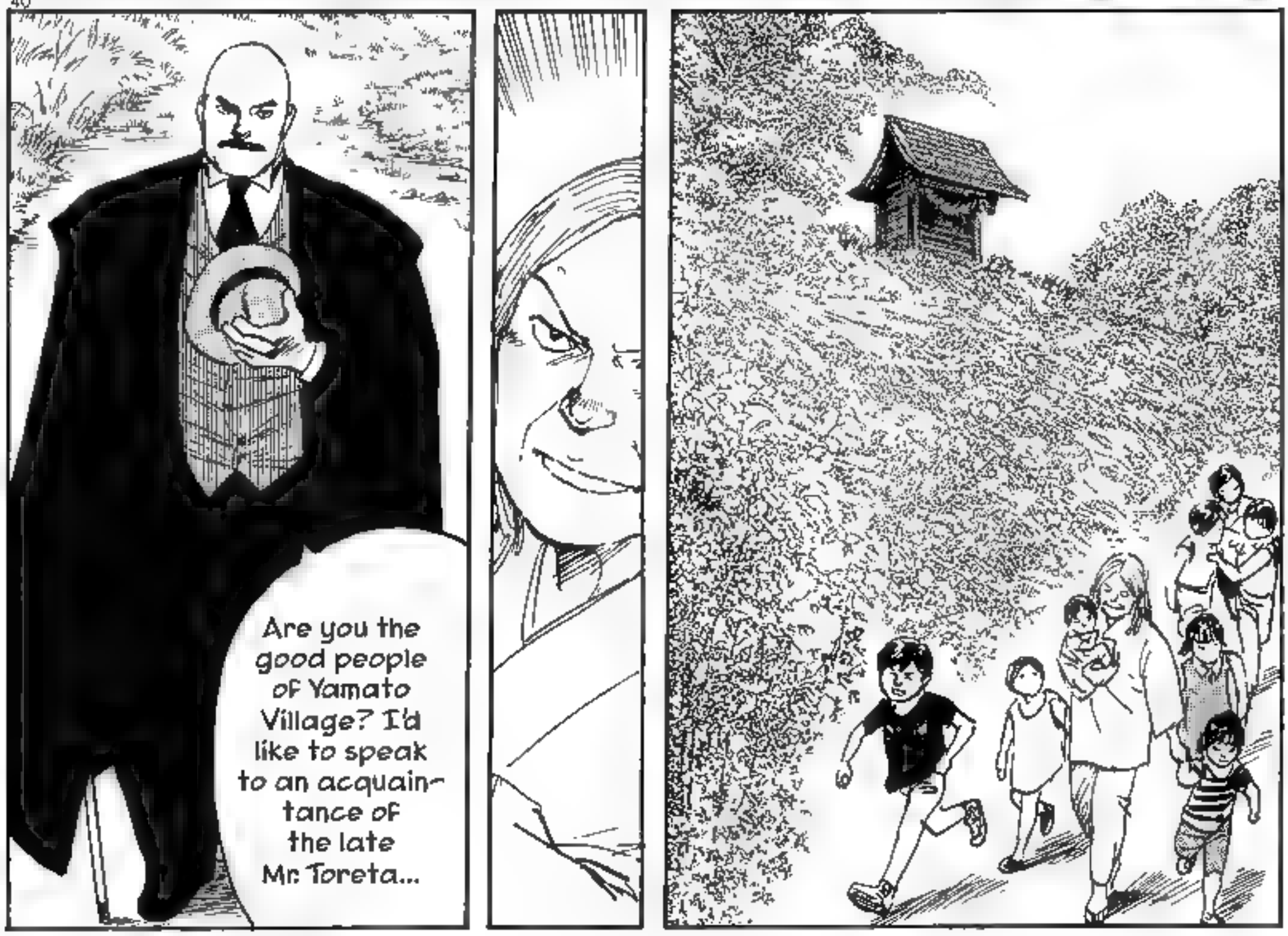
GOD OF YAMATO

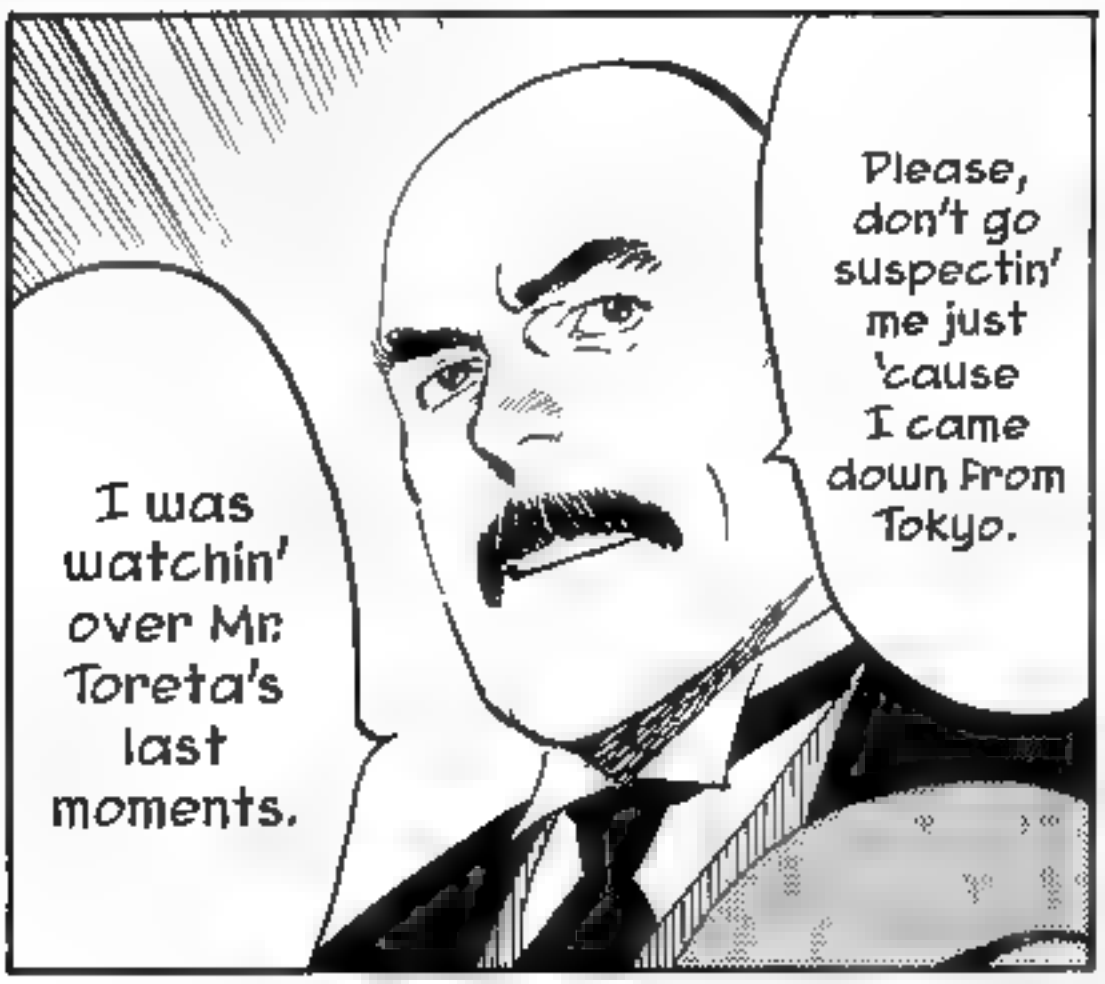
39

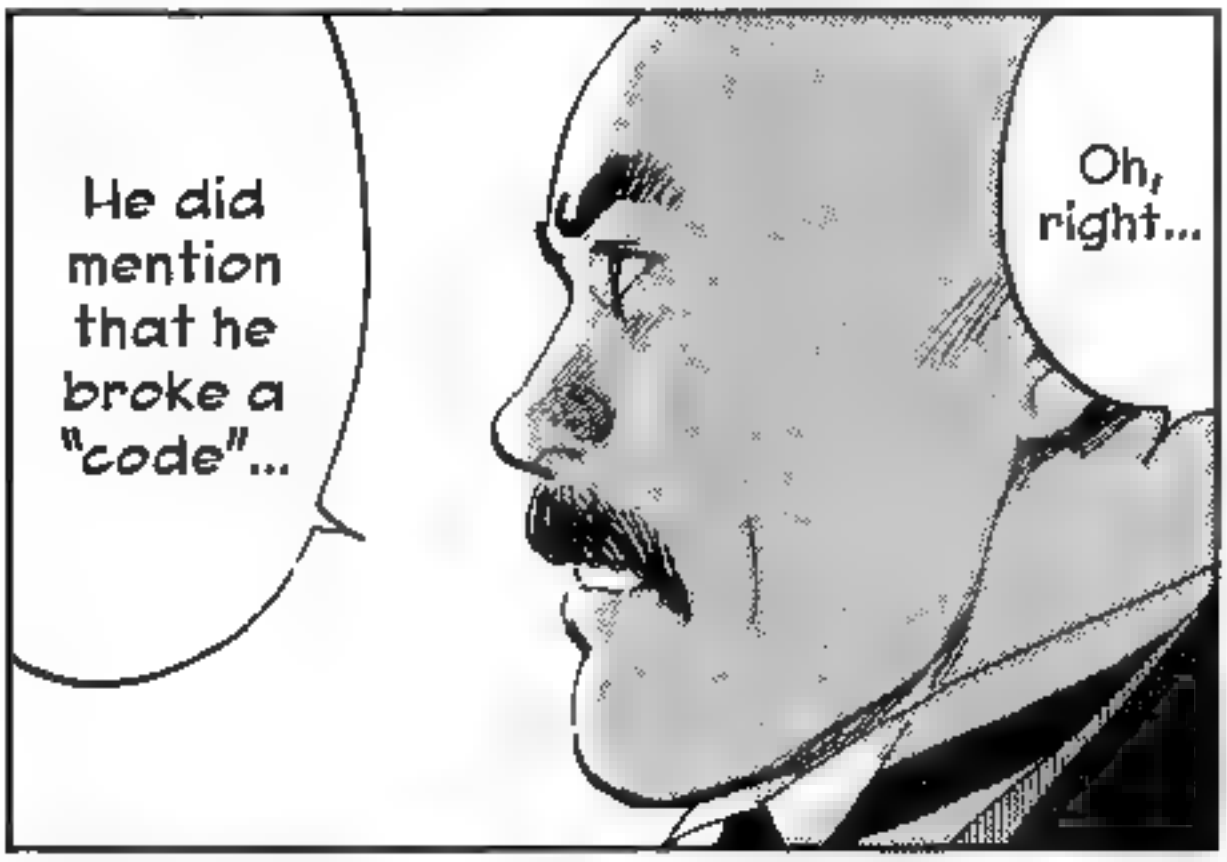
"God of Yamato" ...

There must have been a number of volcanic earthquakes in the area. Any shrines they would have built here would be destroyed by now...

40


Are you the good people of Yamato Village? I'd like to speak to an acquaintance of the late Mr. Toreta...


I was watchin' over Mr. Toreta's last moments.
Please, don't go suspectin' me just 'cause I came down from Tokyo.


He did mention that he broke a "code"...
Oh, right...

He wanted to ask me a favor as a fellow Kyushuan... But I never heard the favor
His last words were the name of this village.

.....!

My name's Kokonoe Namino. He had no relatives, so I will express my gratitude instead.

If only I hadn't been late to our meeting... That thought keeps me up at night.

I was hoping to speak to his relatives if I could...

.....

I'm Munakata. Now I must be off.

For the "code".

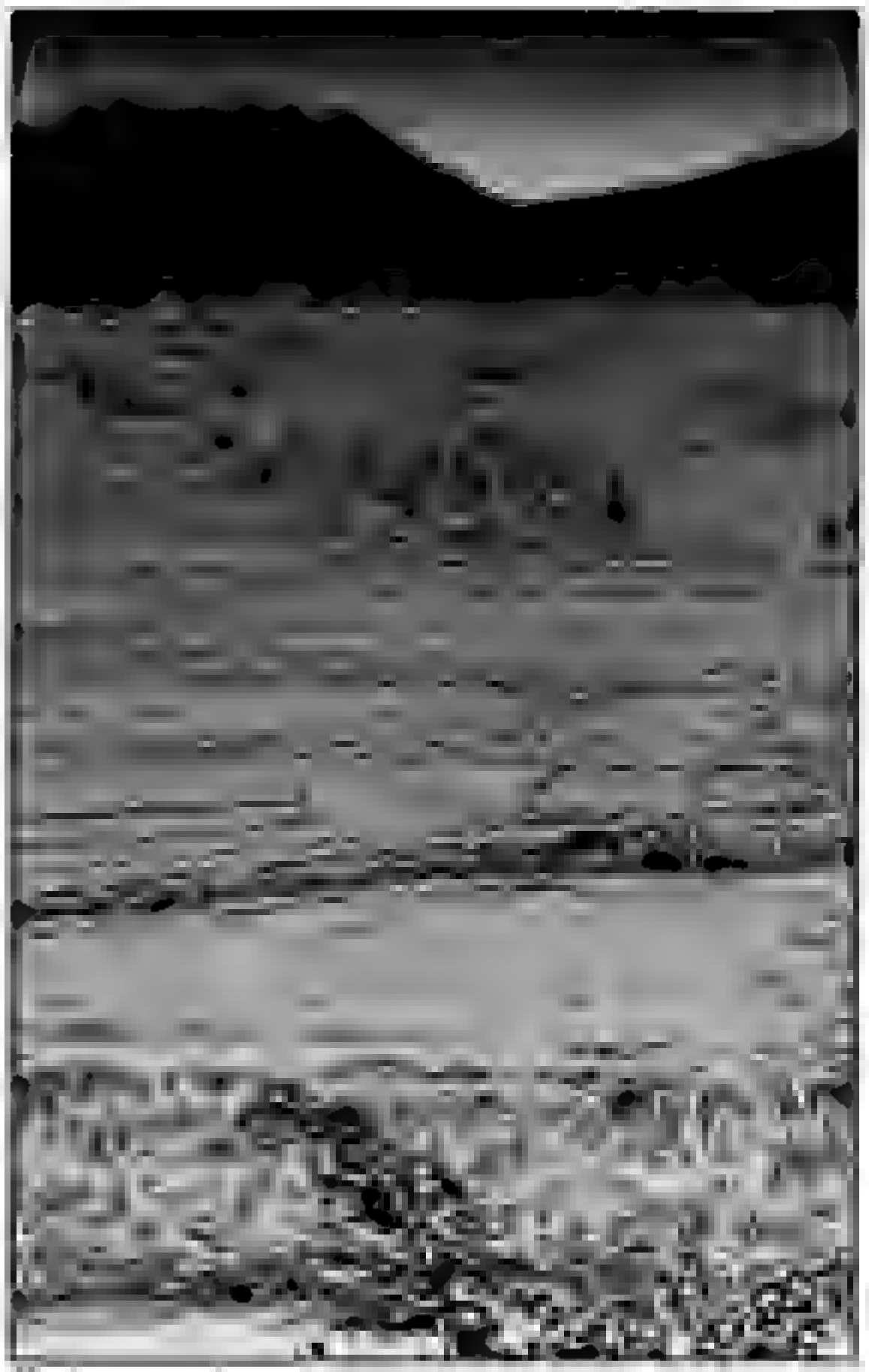
If it comes to it, we go to the Burial Mound in the mountain... Those are Lady Namino's orders.

Goodbye, Mrs. Namino!

Yes, good-bye!

And that just leaves Toshio and Hanae. I hope you can come back to play tomorrow.

Tae, you should go home, too. Your mother and Father should be home From the Fields by now.



So this is a burial mound after all...

I thought you were going back to Tokyo. Do you need something...?

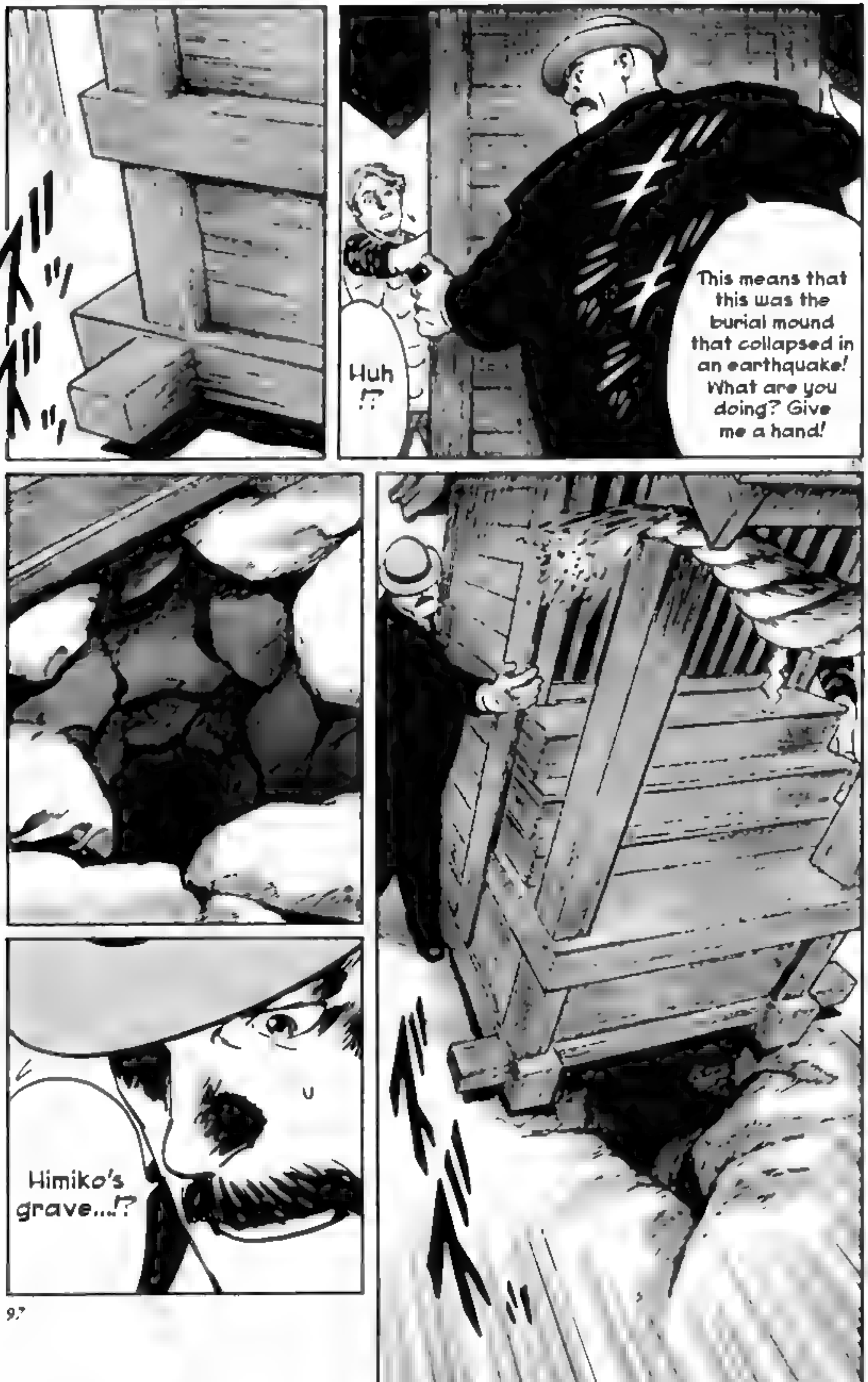
But I'm glad I ran into you here. Would you care to shine some light up there?

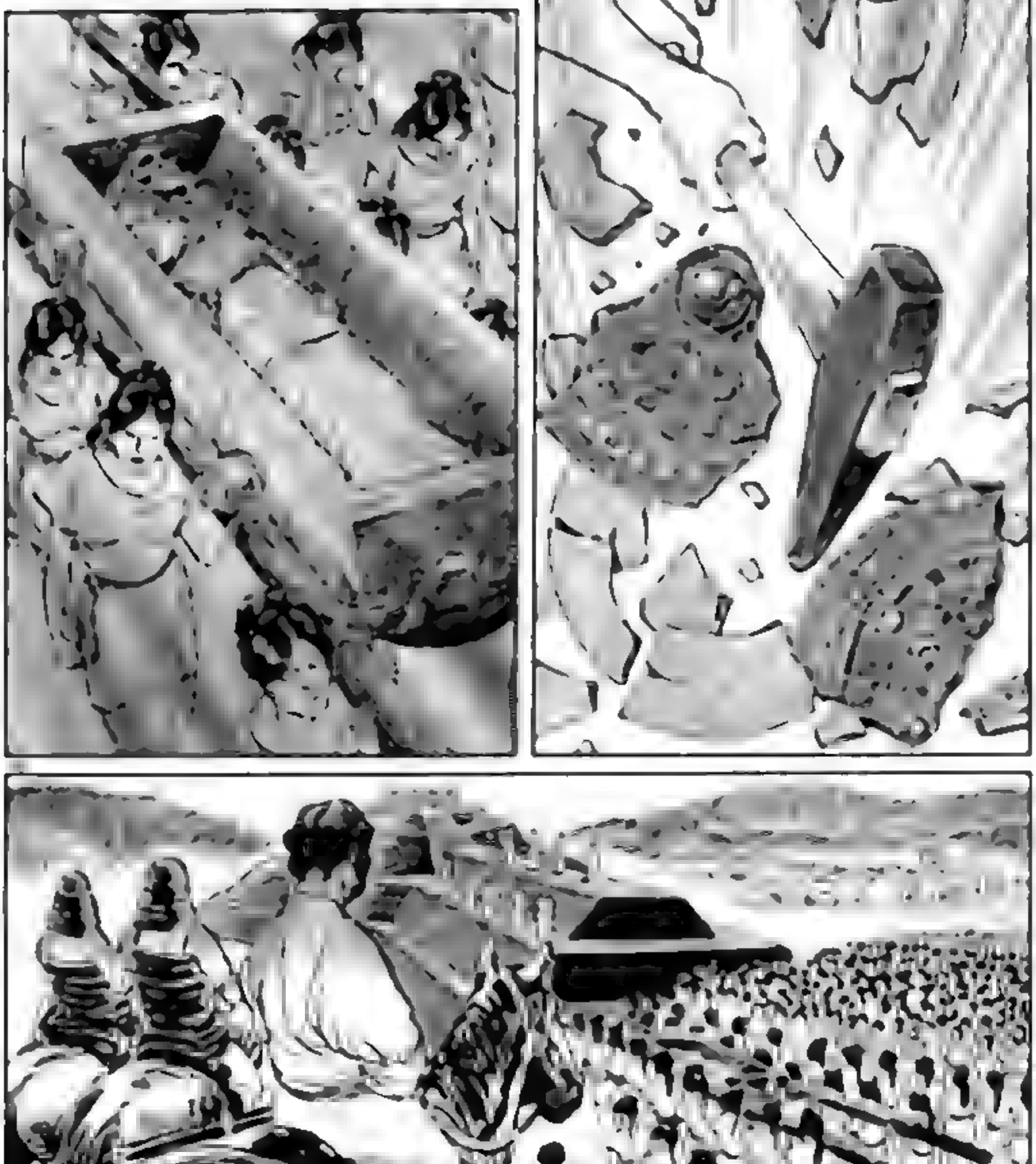
I'd forgotten to try the Aso specialty of Takanameshi.

It was delicious, but I couldn't shake the feeling that I was being watched...

Looks like my hunch was spot-on...

God of Yamato


Huh
This means that this was the burial mound that collapsed in an earthquake! What are you doing? Give me a hand!
Himiko's grave...!?



It looks like there are about a hundred bronze mirrors. That's just how many Wei gave to Himiko.

.....

I'm pretty sure that breaking a bronze mirror was a ritual practice of ancient China to bring back the spirits of the dead...

Regard-less... They all seem to be in pieces...

That's right. They weren't taken from Hashihaka Burial Mound in the late Shogunate!

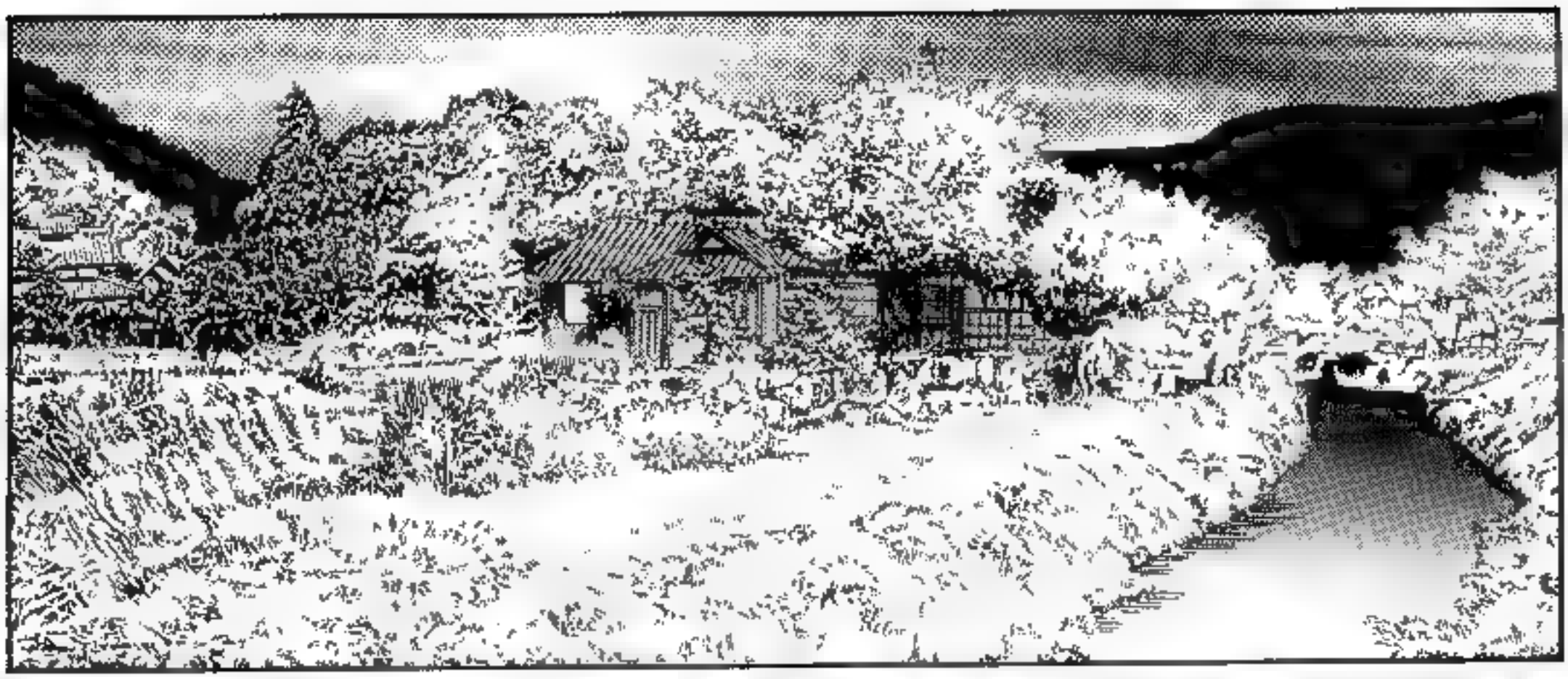
So Toreta must have stole the Fragments from here!

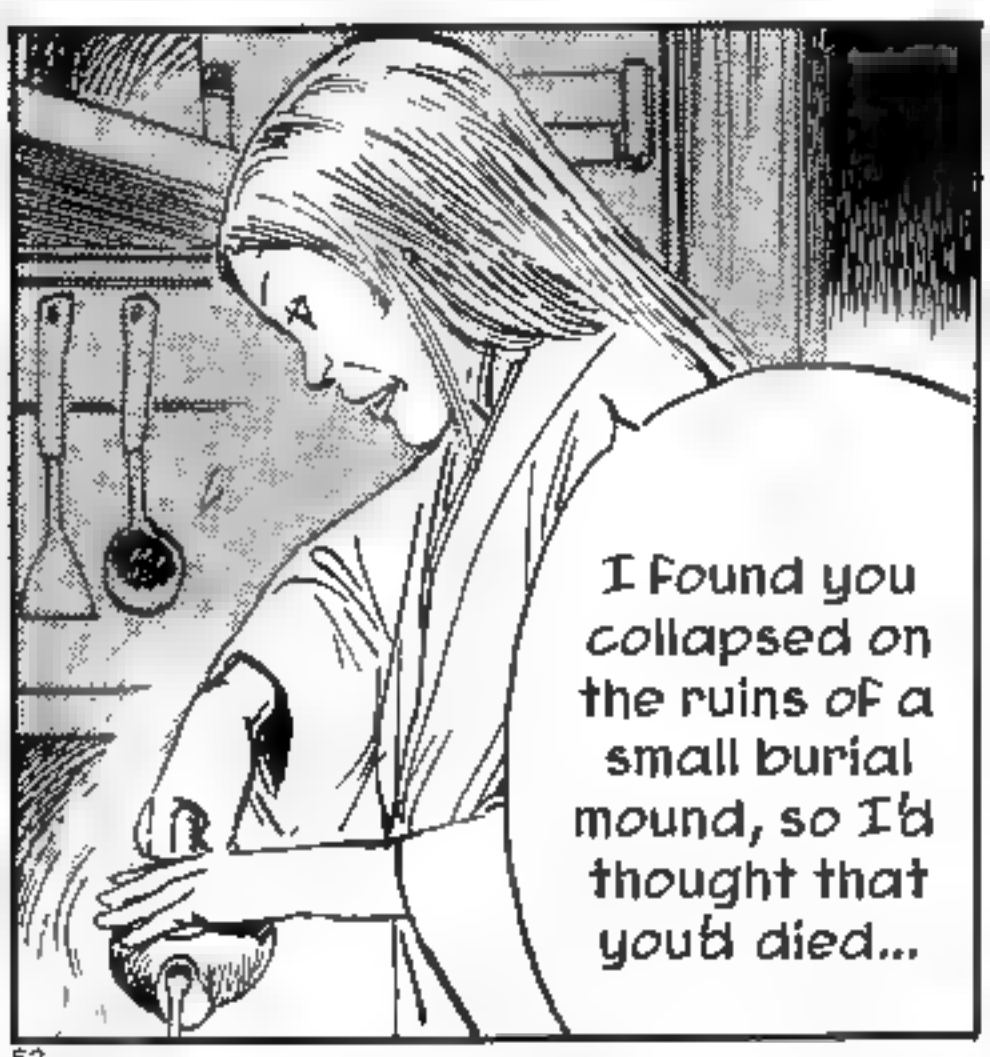
But normally they would only break and bury one, or two at the most.

Why would they shatter all of them...!?

It's not to bring back her soul

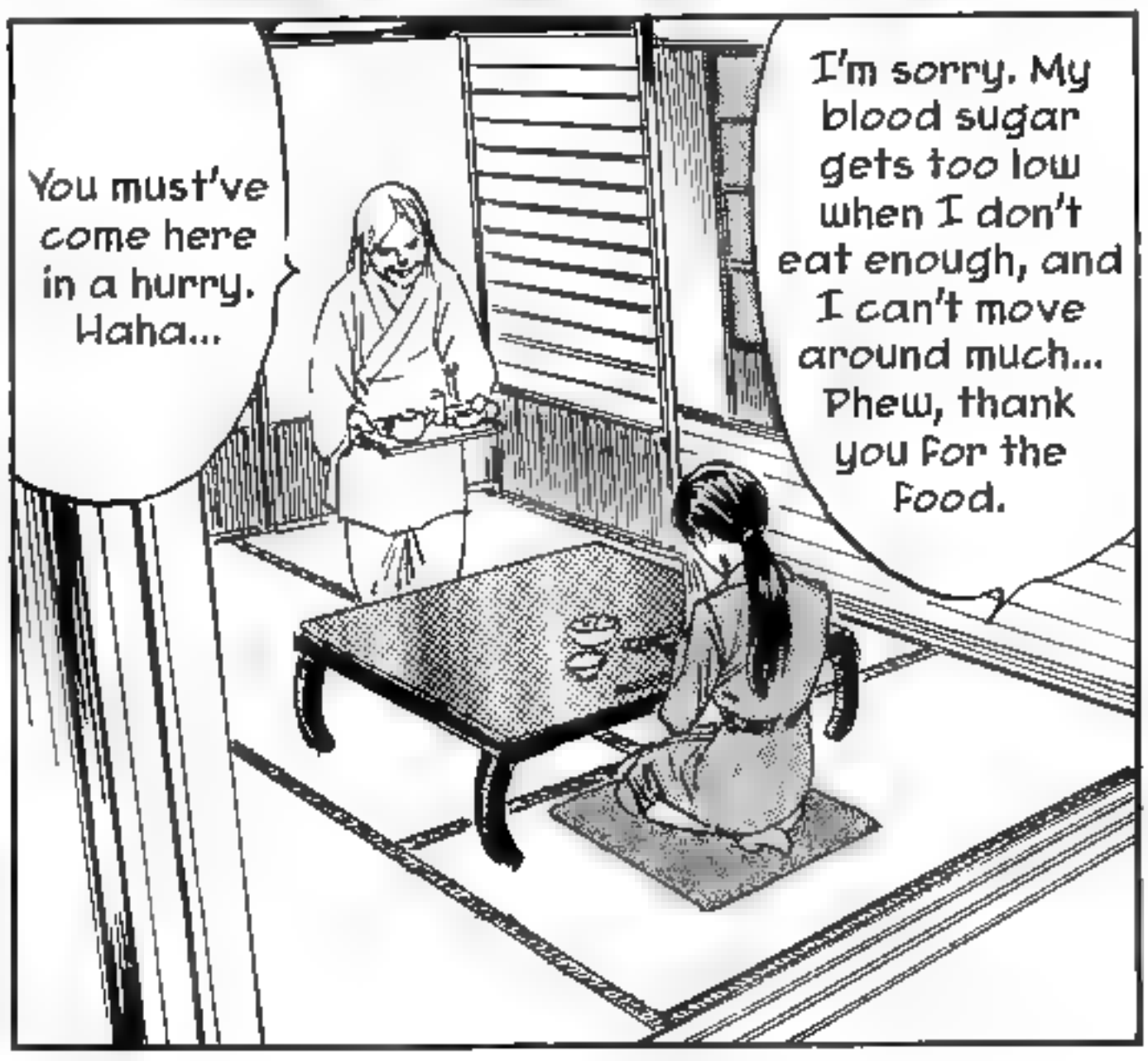
Let's go down and have a look




I found you collapsed on the ruins of a small burial mound, so I'd thought that you'd died...

Munch
Munch
Munch

You seem to be a shrine maiden that serves the gods. What's the matter?


You must've come here in a hurry. Haha...
I'm sorry. My blood sugar gets too low when I don't eat enough, and I can't move around much... Phew, thank you for the food.

Munakata... Uncle?

My name's Muna-kata Taki.

I feel like something bad has happened to my uncle.

Sip...

Sip...

My elder sisters kept saying they had a bad feeling about him...

He's a Folk-lorist.

Look around the burial chamber. There's usually a sarcophagus for the dead body in the center, but there's none of that here. It's just packed with mirror fragments.

Professor Haji, i...isn't this a little too unreasonable...?

We can't just take artifacts from a burial mound without taking records...

But why would they take them all the way to Kyushu...?

This must be the hiding place for mirror fragments that were recently stolen from Hashihaka Burial Mound.

55

.....

We'll reveal them when the time comes. Until then, we'll take them to Nara for storage, for the sake of the university's honor. Understood!?

If we don't do something, people could start saying that this was Himiko's burial mound!

They could even criticize me for making a publication based on forged evidence!

Is that all of them? I'll go double-check, so you all wait here.

Ggghh
..!!
Mmmgh
..!!

...YOU KILLED HIM! YOU PUSHED MR. TORETA OFF THE CLIFF AND KILLED HIM!

This is what happens when you stick your nose where it doesn't belong!

I can't go on lying! These bronze mirror fragments didn't come from Hashihaka! They came from somewhere else!

W...WAIT! THEN WHERE DID YOU BRING THE MIRRORS FROM!?

I'm sorry to do this to you, but I'm gonna tell the world the truth.

LET ME GO!!

I CAN'T HAVE YOU TAKING LIBERTIES! HAVE YOU EVEN CONSIDERED MY POSITION!?

WHERE? TELL ME!!

There's a researcher on the way here. I'll tell you when he gets here!

What will you do now? You can take away the mirrors, but the truth will come out eventually.

Why do you think that man lied that the mirrors came from Hashihaka, as opposed to any other burial mound?

EVEN IF THEY FIND YOUR BODY, THEY'LL THINK YOU FELL IN BY ACCIDENT!

Because they will never permit Hashihaka's excavation. This means that they can never confirm the truth!

I'm going to take advantage of that. And Professor Munakata, you're going into that burial mound.

TAKI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

UNCLE !!

60

LOOK OUT!!

KCH ...

WAS THAT... PROFESSOR HAJI!?
AH... HEY!
W-WAIT!! THAT'S OUR VAN!!

WA AAA AU GH ...!!

Yes... The unknown burial mound in the mountain...

O... Okay!

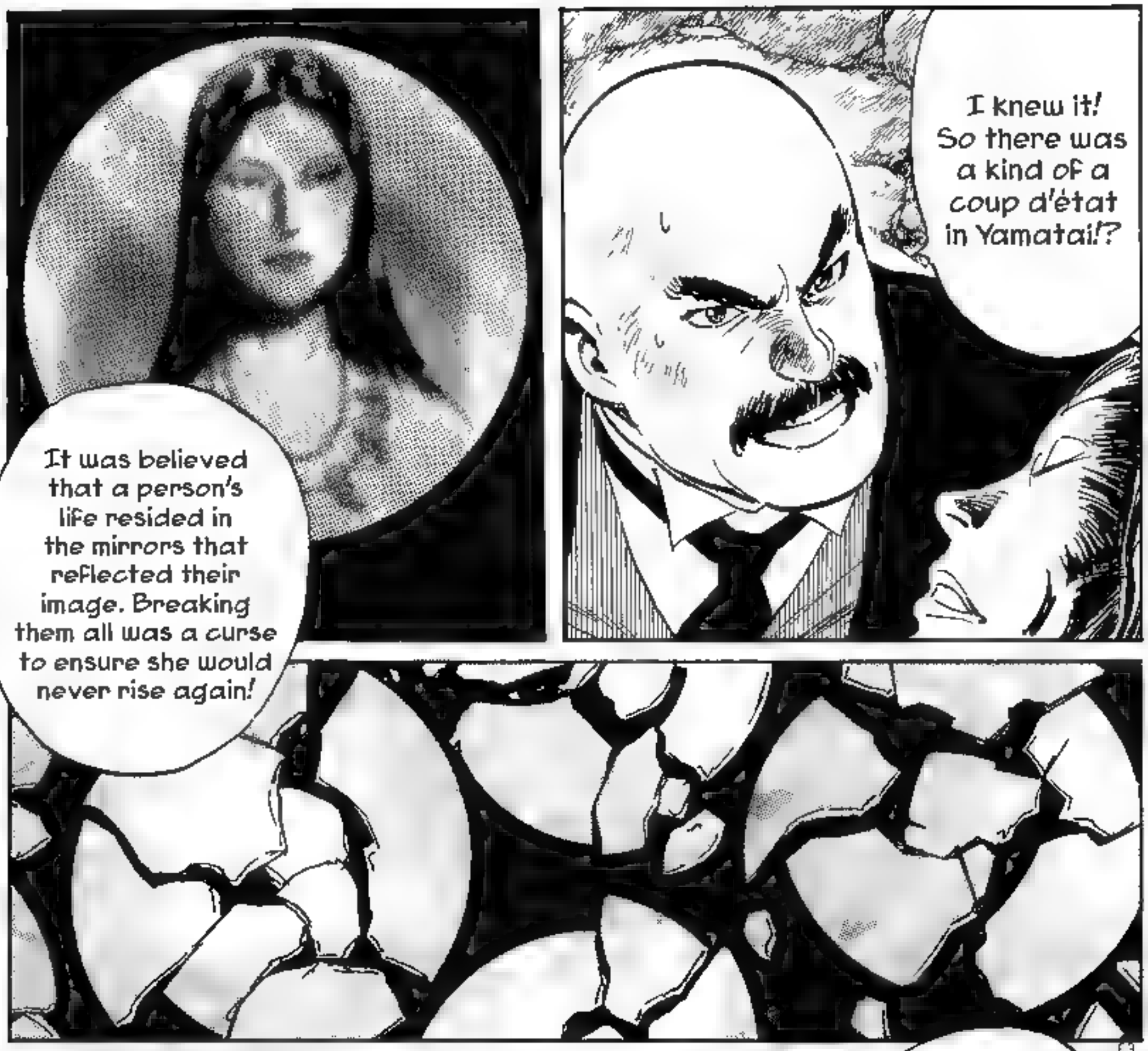
TAKI! CALL AN AMBU-LANCE ON YOUR CELL PHONE!

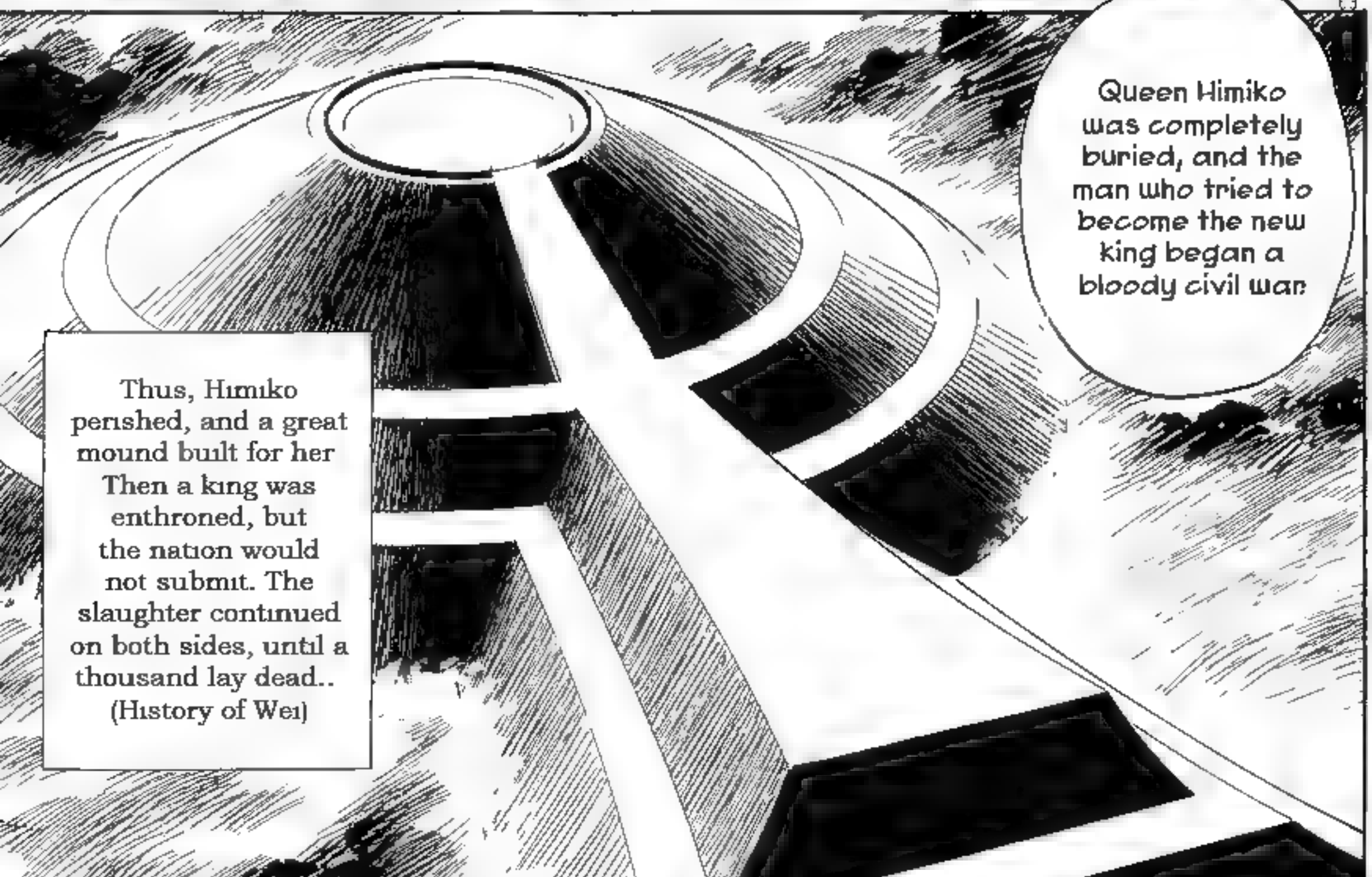
W...

broke the mir-rors...

When Himiko died, those who tried to take her throne...

NAMINO !!


I knew it! So there was a kind of a coup d'état in Yamatai!?
It was believed that a person's life resided in the mirrors that reflected their image. Breaking them all was a curse to ensure she would never rise again!


Queen Himiko was completely buried, and the man who tried to become the new king began a bloody civil war.
Thus, Himiko perished, and a great mound built for her Then a king was enthroned, but the nation would not submit. The slaughter continued on both sides, until a thousand lay dead..
(History of Wei)

The forces that broke off of Yamatai migrated to Hinata, into the Seto Inland Sea, landed at Kumano in the Kii Peninsula, and arrived in Yamato...

The Eastern Migration of Yamatai ...

A woman named Toyo then became the medium-queen to succeed Himiko and ruled the nation, but those dissatisfied with her left the country en masse.

There, they founded the new nation of Yamatai, the Kingdom of Yamato!

The decades passed...
and the forces of Yamato marched forth to conquer the original Yamatai...

Their other objective was the mirrors that lay at rest with Queen Himiko!

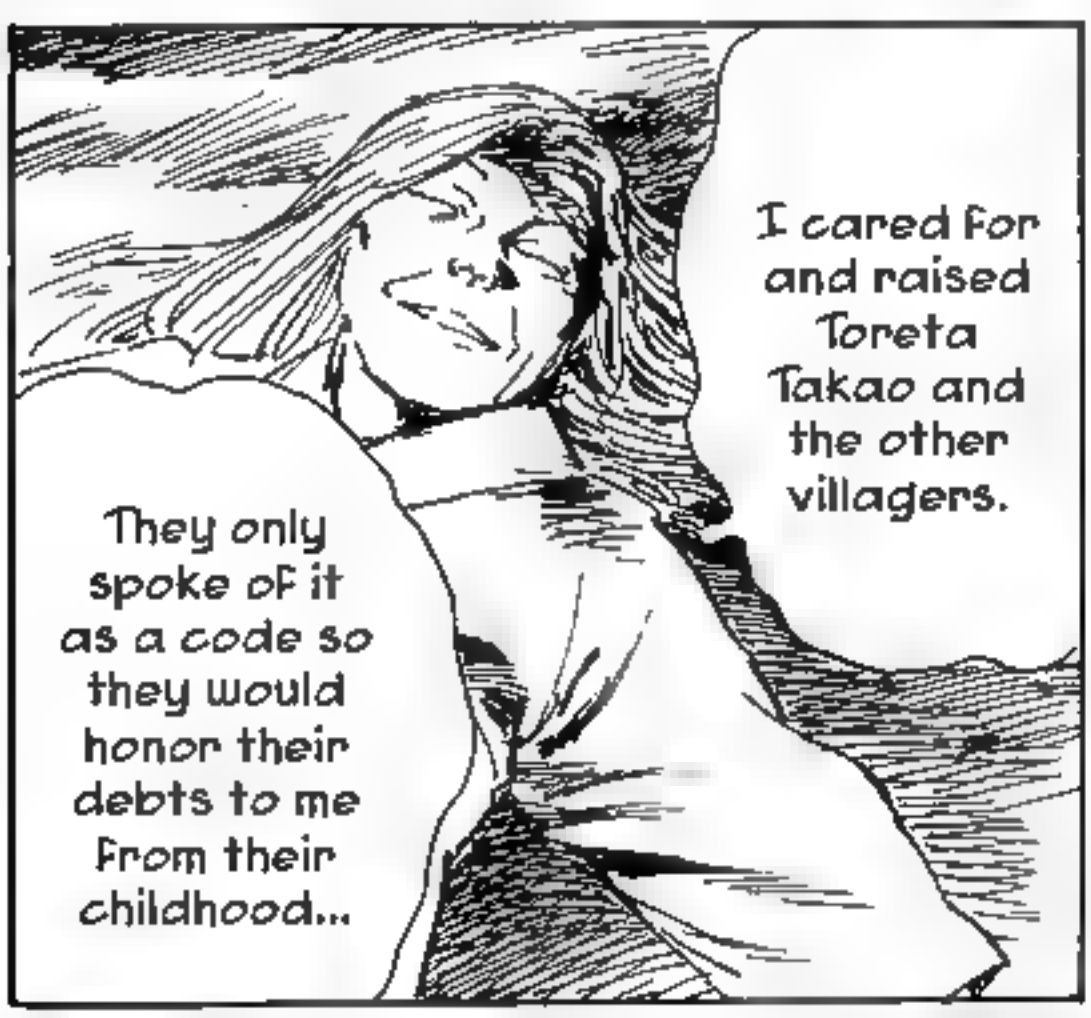
They brought the hundred Wei mirrors back to Yamato and tried to copy them.

They intended to distribute the mass-produced mirrors in order to demonstrate their authority to the nations in the Kinai regions.

Just before their downfall, the people of Yamatai hid Queen Himiko's body and the cursed mirrors in separate locations!

There is no "code"...

They created a "code" to protect the body and the mirrors...
And they... must have been your ances-tors...


I cared for and raised Toreta Takao and the other villagers.
They only spoke of it as a code so they would honor their debts to me From their childhood...

Takao stole the mirrors because he had trouble making ends meet... but he was a good and honest boy...

STOP IT!

WHERE ...

W... WHERE IS HI-MIKO'S BODY !?

WHERE WAS THE ORIGINAL BURIAL MOUND!?

WHERE WAS YAMATAI !?

UNCLE! THE AMBU-LANCE IS H...

……

70

120

The Yamatai debate is still being contested. The relationship between Kyushu and Kinai, like an object and its mirror image, may have become the source of a riddle that cannot be easily solved

Even the hundred Wei mirrors that were supposed to prove the legitimacy of Yamatai became impossible to verify when the Yamato government invited an artisan from China to produce a vast quantity of bronze mirrors

Which of them was the real image?

We may never know the answer.

THE OAKE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MIYAMA

CHAPTER 6

PRESENTED BY

HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY

SYSTEMATICCHAOS

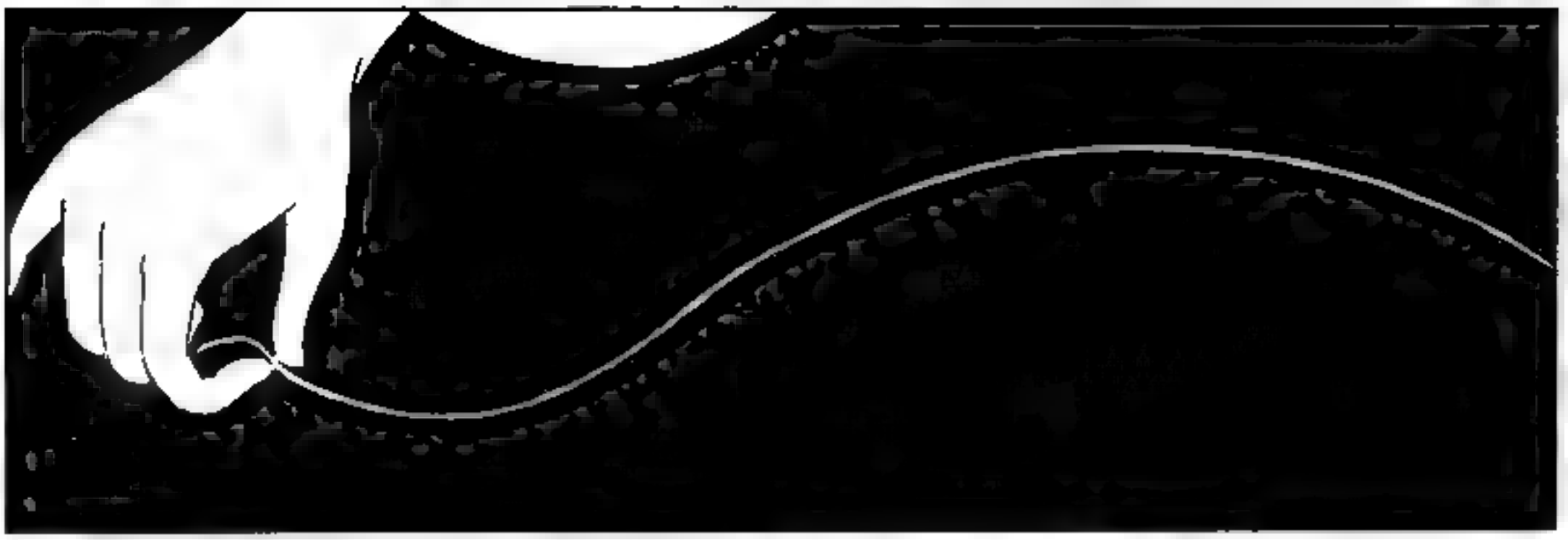
EDITING BY

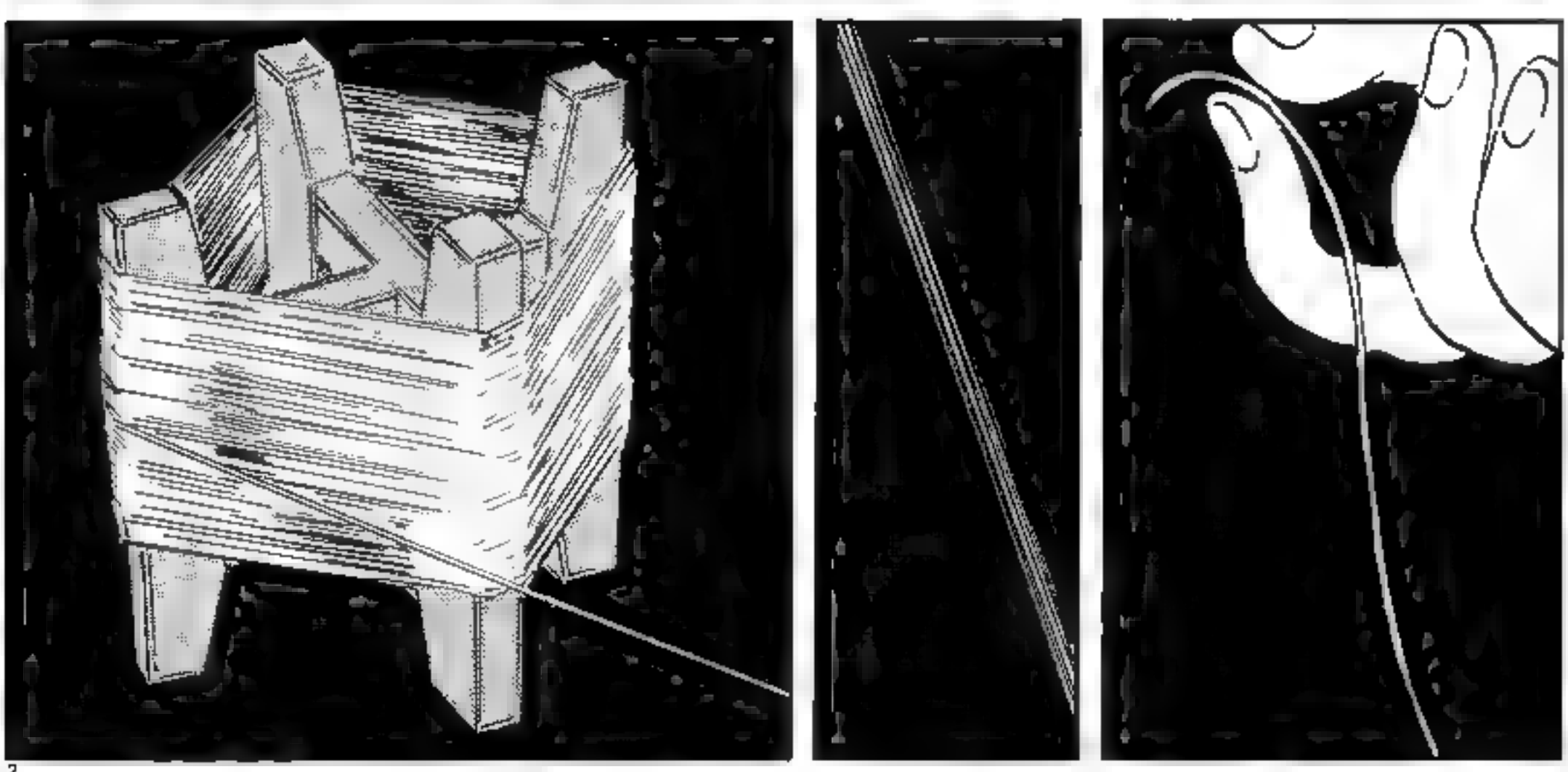
HIGHTIDE AND KAZUHIKO

PROOFREADING BY

DESTORYERRING

CHAPTER 7
THE WEAVER AND THE X-DRAWER





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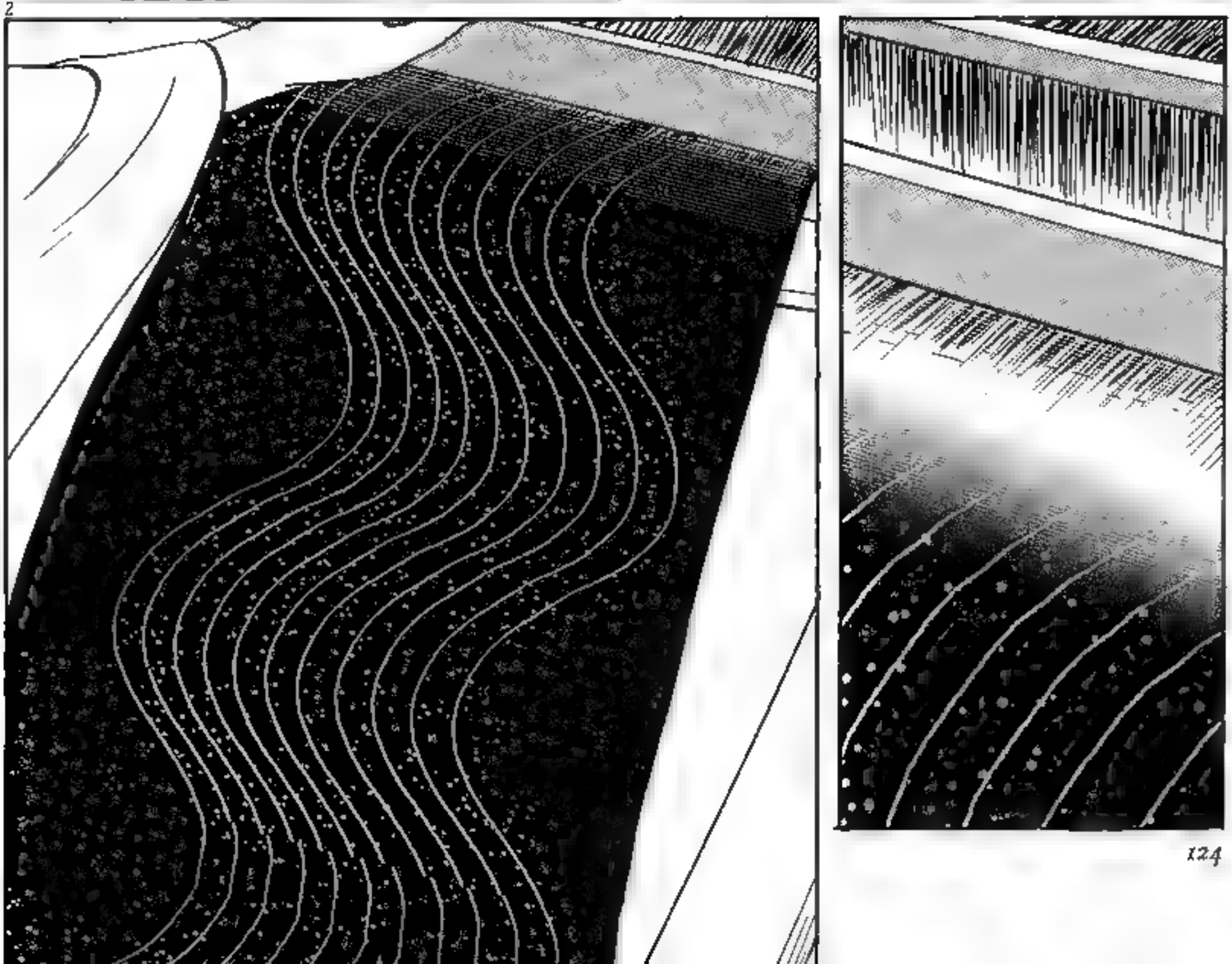
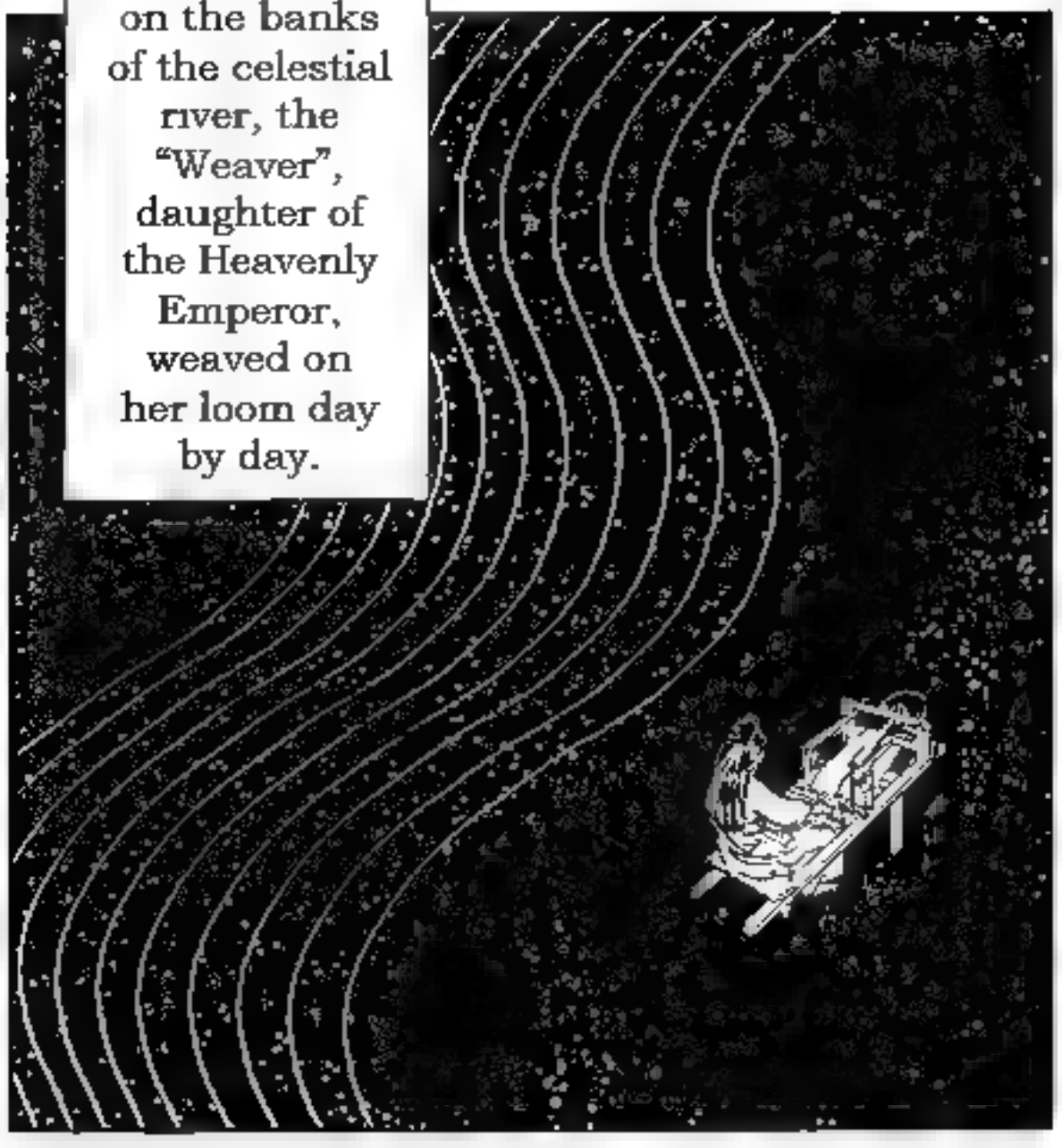
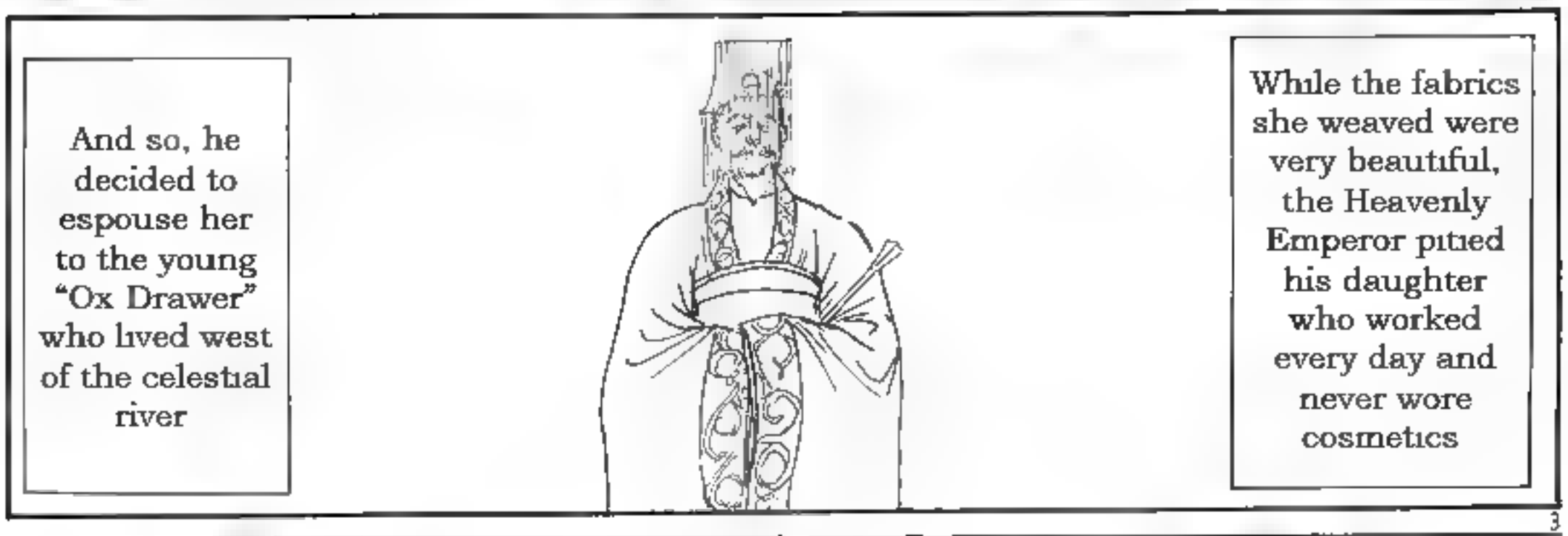
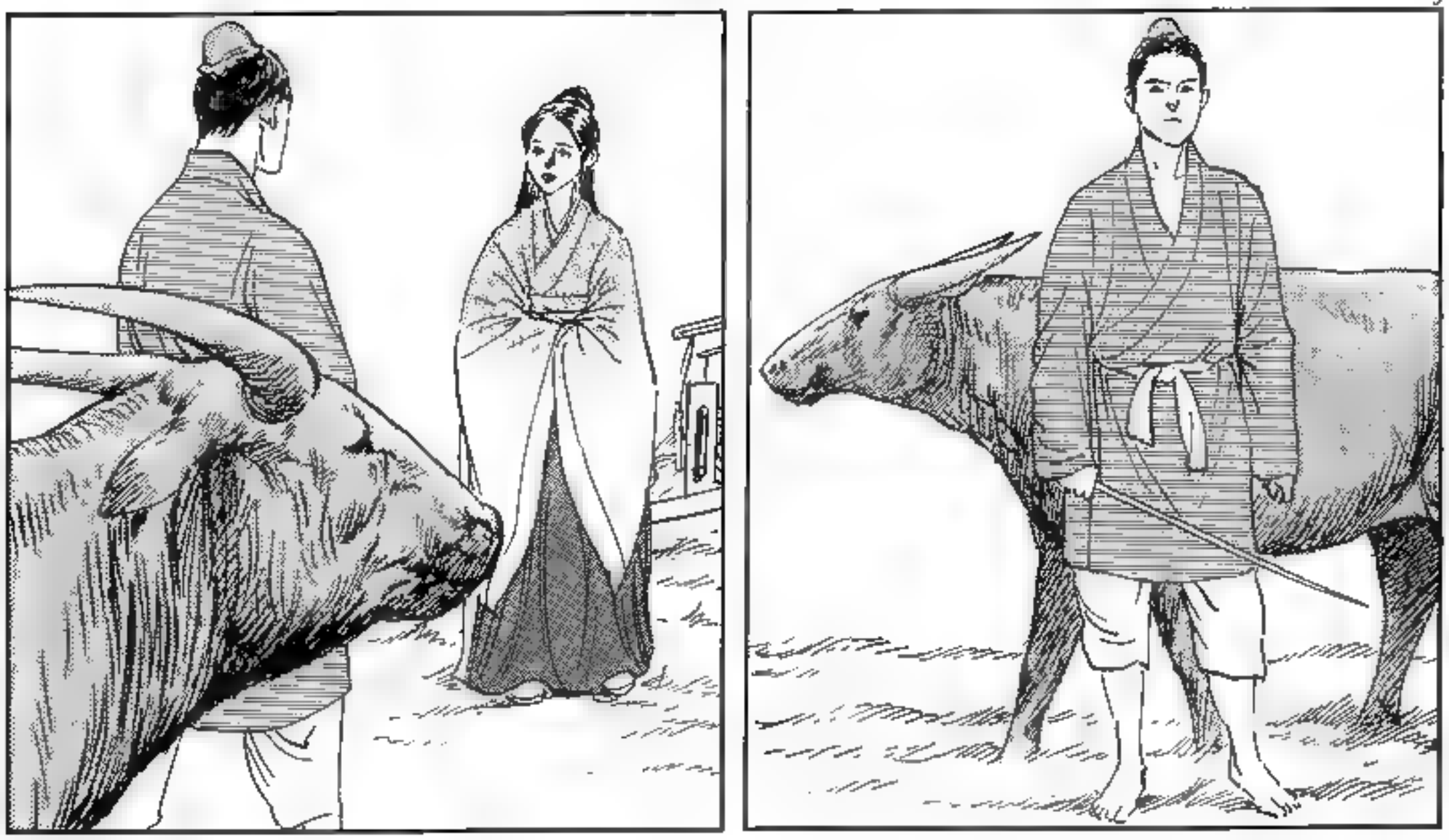



Long, long ago, on the banks of the celestial river, the "Weaver", daughter of the Heavenly Emperor, weaved on her loom day by day.


And so, he decided to espouse her to the young "Ox Drawer" who lived west of the celestial river
While the fabrics she weaved were very beautiful, the Heavenly Emperor pitied his daughter who worked every day and never wore cosmetics



But they fell so deeply in love that they neglected their jobs, and the sounds of weaving ceased

The Heavenly Emperor was finally infuriated at his daughter who would not return to her work.

The Weaver and the Ox Drawer were ordered to perform their old jobs on each side of the celestial river

They were only permitted to meet once a year, on the night of July 7th

But should it rain on that night, the celestial river would flood too high to ford.

And so, people adorn their houses with bamboo grass leaves, praying for clear skies and for their own wishes, and watch over the rendezvous of Vega and Altair, separated by the Milky Way

...This is the legend of "Tanabata" as transmitted from China... Nowadays it's mostly famous for the Tanabata Festival celebrated a month late in August north of Tohoku...

The theme of this month's lectures will be tracing the origin of Tanabata. Let's start with the old Chinese custom of "Qiqiaodian"...

6

My name is Nikos Marinatos, an exchange student from Greece...

Professor Munakata, may I ask you a question?

SKREECH...

But I have heard that the characters can also be read to mean "a drawn ox".

The name "ox-drawer" seems to mean an oxherd...

What would the story mean if the "ox-drawer" were not a man, but an ox?

I was planning to talk about that later, but let's address it now. Listen closely.

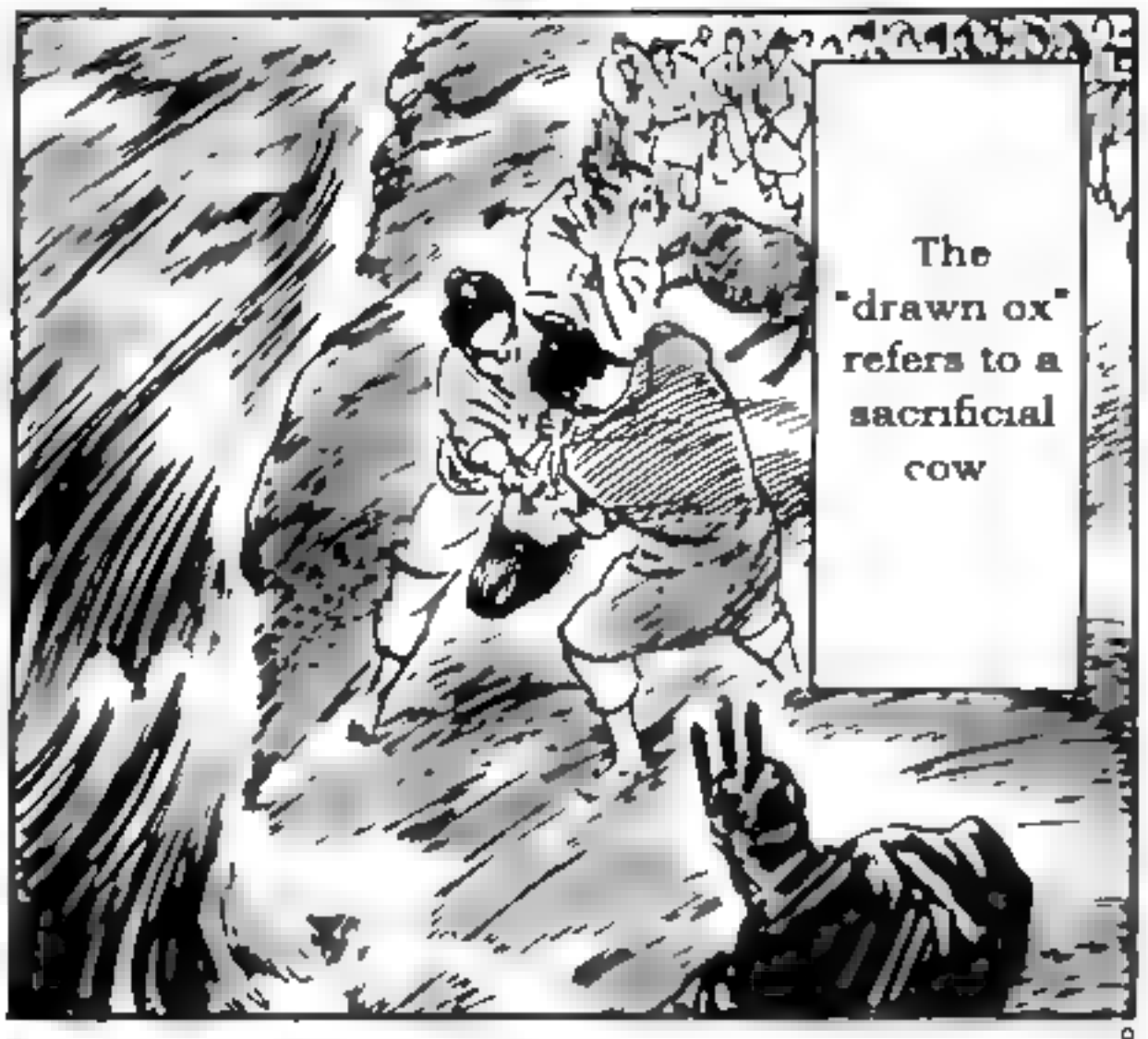
That's a very good question! You're quite sharper than most Japanese.

In the ancient world, all natural disasters, from droughts to floods, were believed to be the wrath of the gods.

And to quell their wrath...

Yes ...

8



Most of these were conducted in the summer... July, to be exact.

Prayers for rain, prayers for cessation of rain, prayers for a bountiful harvest.. All these prayers that involved water in some way involved a sacrificial ox offered to the "river god".

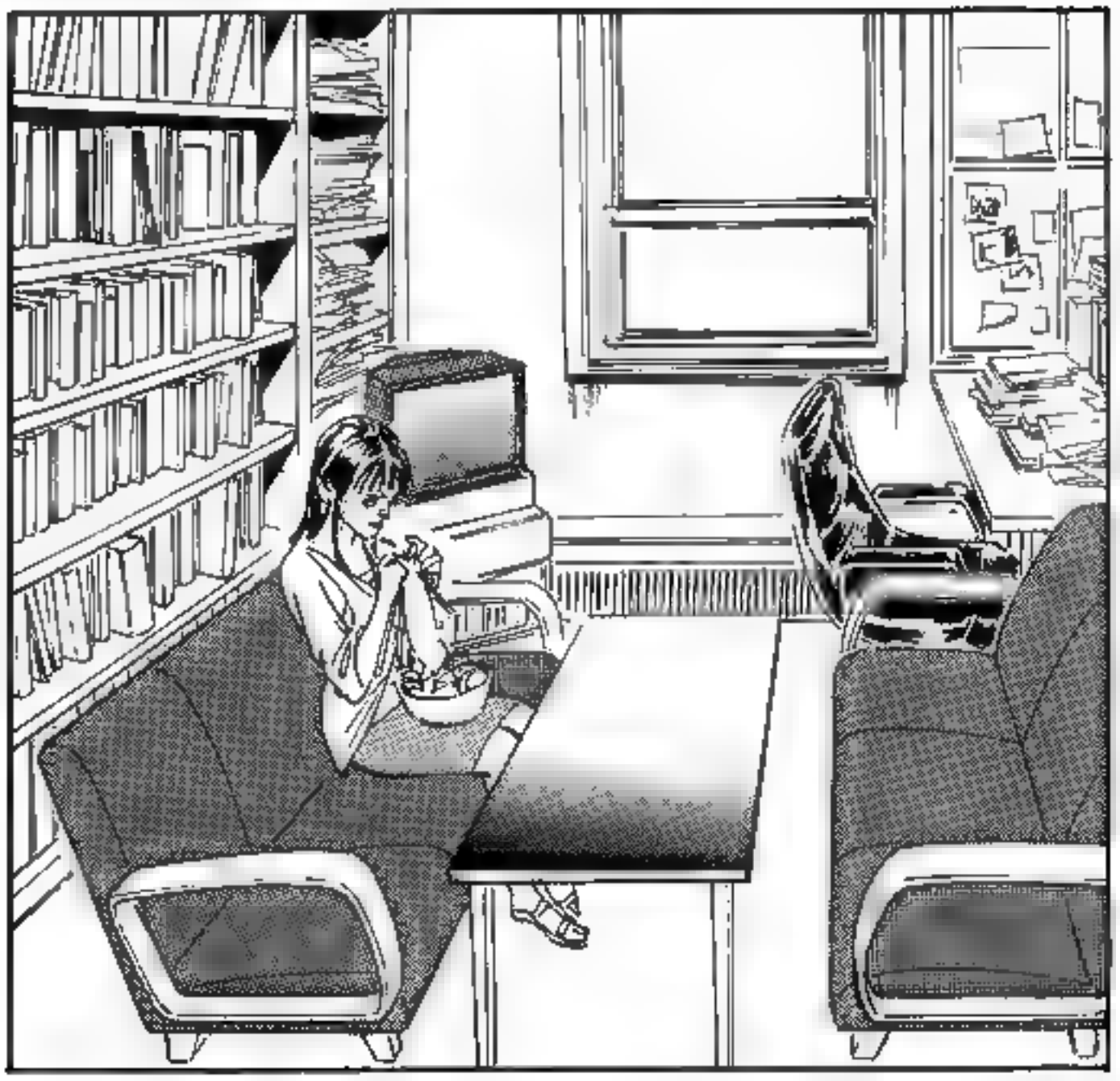
Summer... The river... The drawn ox... One of the prototypes of Tanabata may have been such a sacrificial ritual.

The custom of offering an ox to the river or water is seen not only in China, but worldwide. Even in Europe, for instance...

10

Well, we'll pick this up next week...

EAST ASIA UNIVERSITY OF CUL



FOLKLORISTICS
LESENDARY PROFESSOR MUNAKATA
Now, come in.

H-H...
Hello...
Hello...

O...Oh!

This is my niece, Taki.
She came uninvited all the way from Kyushu, so I had no choice but to make her my personal assistant.

Lef-
kada?

Yes, that's where I was raised. It's a small island near the Grecian mainland.

Haven't you heard of it?

I've been to Greece once before, and I've visited some of the islands, but I don't recall a Lefkada... Of course, this was back when I was young. Hahhahha!

12

There was a man born on Lefkada by the name of Lafcadio Hearn.

Lafcadio Hearn....!

He was the child of an Irish father and Greek mother

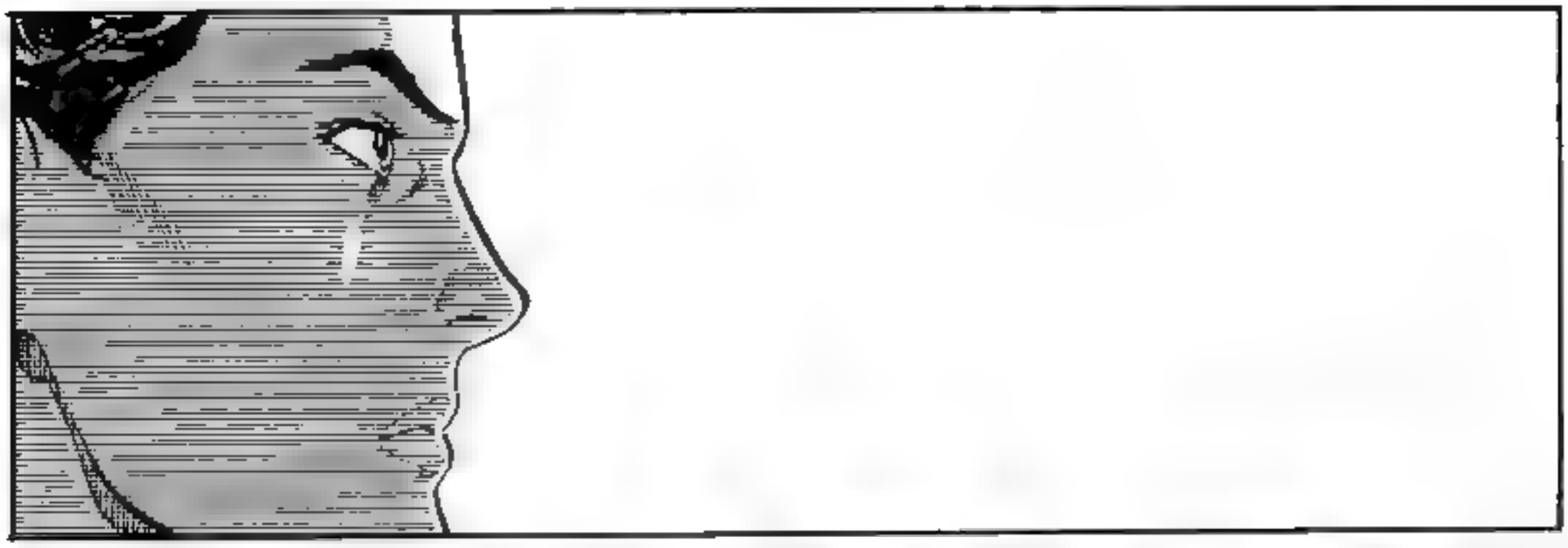
They named him Lafcadio after the island of Lefkada.

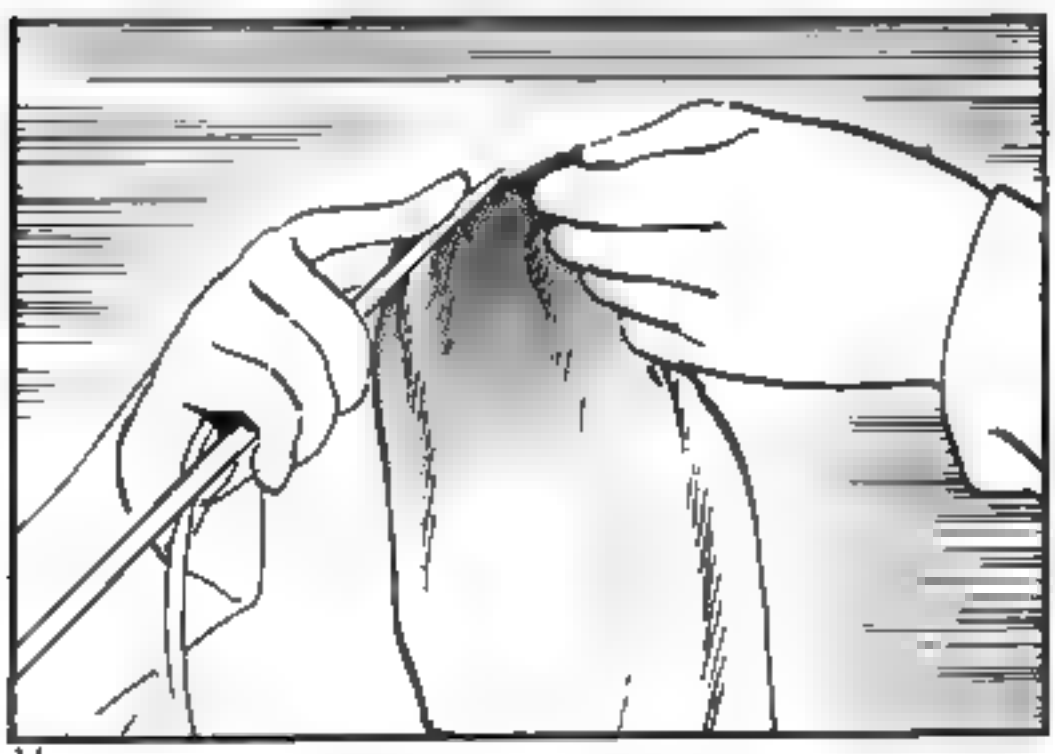
He naturalized as Japanese in the Meiji period, took on the name Koizumi Yakumo, and wrote "Kwaidan" and other books... I didn't know he was Greek-born.

Oh, I see!

I became interested in Japan because of him. I wanted to study Lafcadio Hearn and Folkloristics.

Here you go.





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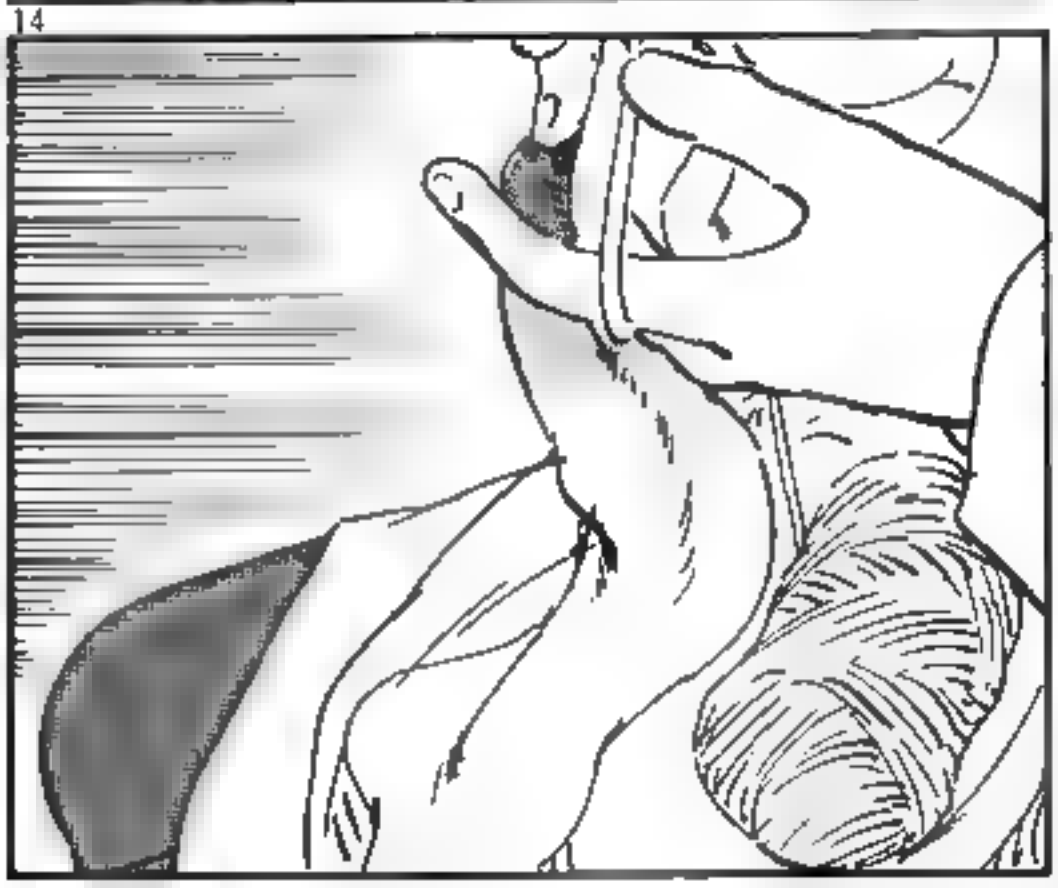
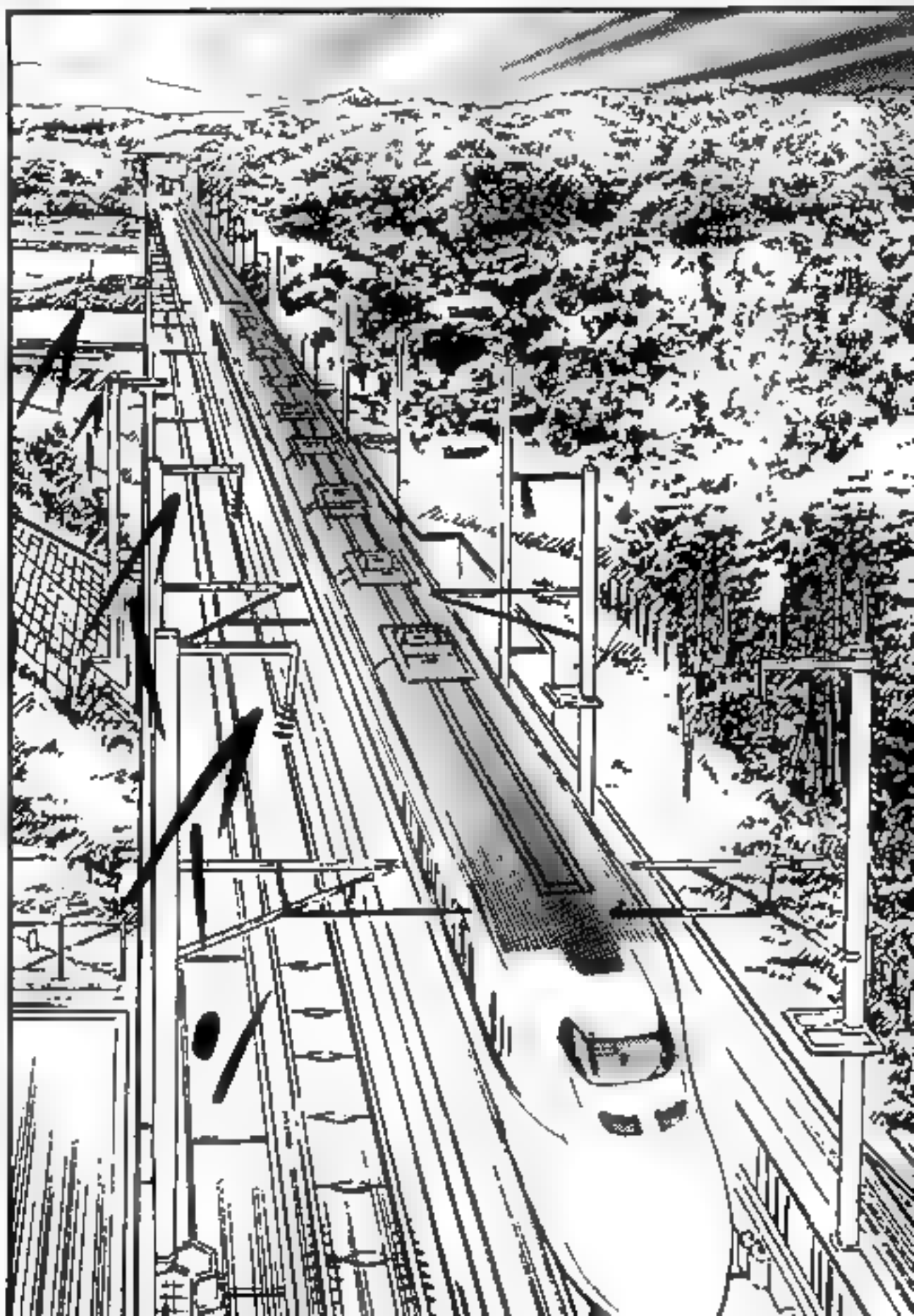




It's alright! I'm doing this for fun...

Taki, how many times do I have to tell you? He doesn't need a scarf! Besides, it's rather irritating that you're knitting in the heat of summer...

I've never been to Kyoto before! I'm really looking forward to this.

I can't afford to be careless with such an enthusiastic student. I'm going to have to do some firsthand research to prepare for next week's lecture.

SIGN: RESEARCH ON THE HATA CLAN

Kyoto

This is also known as "The Silkworm Shrine"... It began around the 7th Century, as a place for the settler clan known as the Hata to worship the god of sericulture and weaving...

Konoshima Shrine, Uzumasa

16

In fact, some say that the word for loom, "hata", comes from that clan.

Kokai Shrine

They were particularly famous for raising silkworms and weaving silk, and since their offerings to the Court were always piled so high, they were given the title of "Utsumasa".

Many believe this was the origin of the name Uzumasa. This is evidence that this area was home to the Yamashiro Hata Clan.

The Hata Clan...

As a clan that settled in Japan, who may have emigrated from Qin China according to one theory, they possessed a massive force and advanced technology for their day.

Yes!

Weavers... The Hata Clan... Does that mean that "Tanabata"...?

モグ モグ モグ

I guess your stomach always gets upset just as I'm getting to the good part. Eh, Taki?

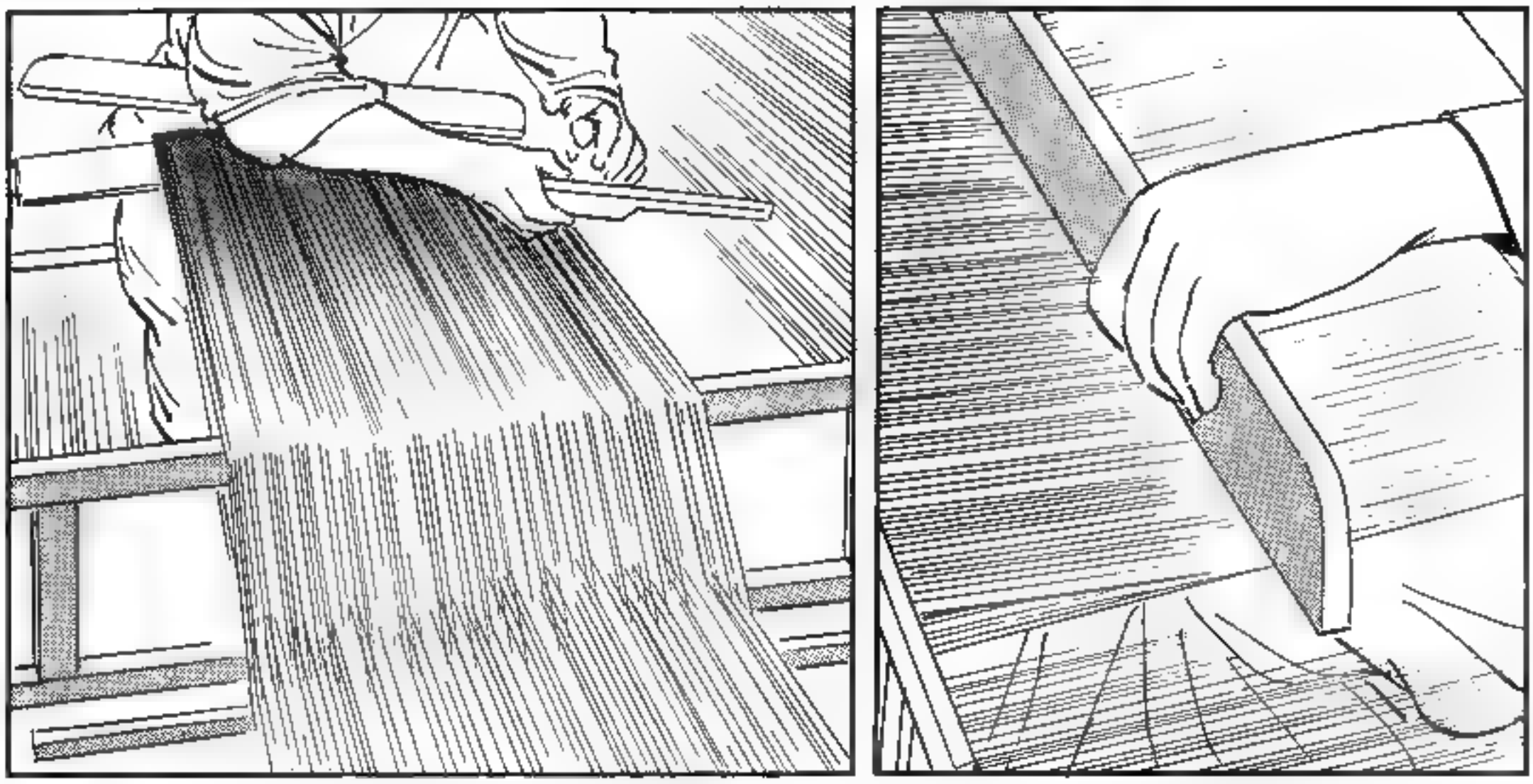
♪

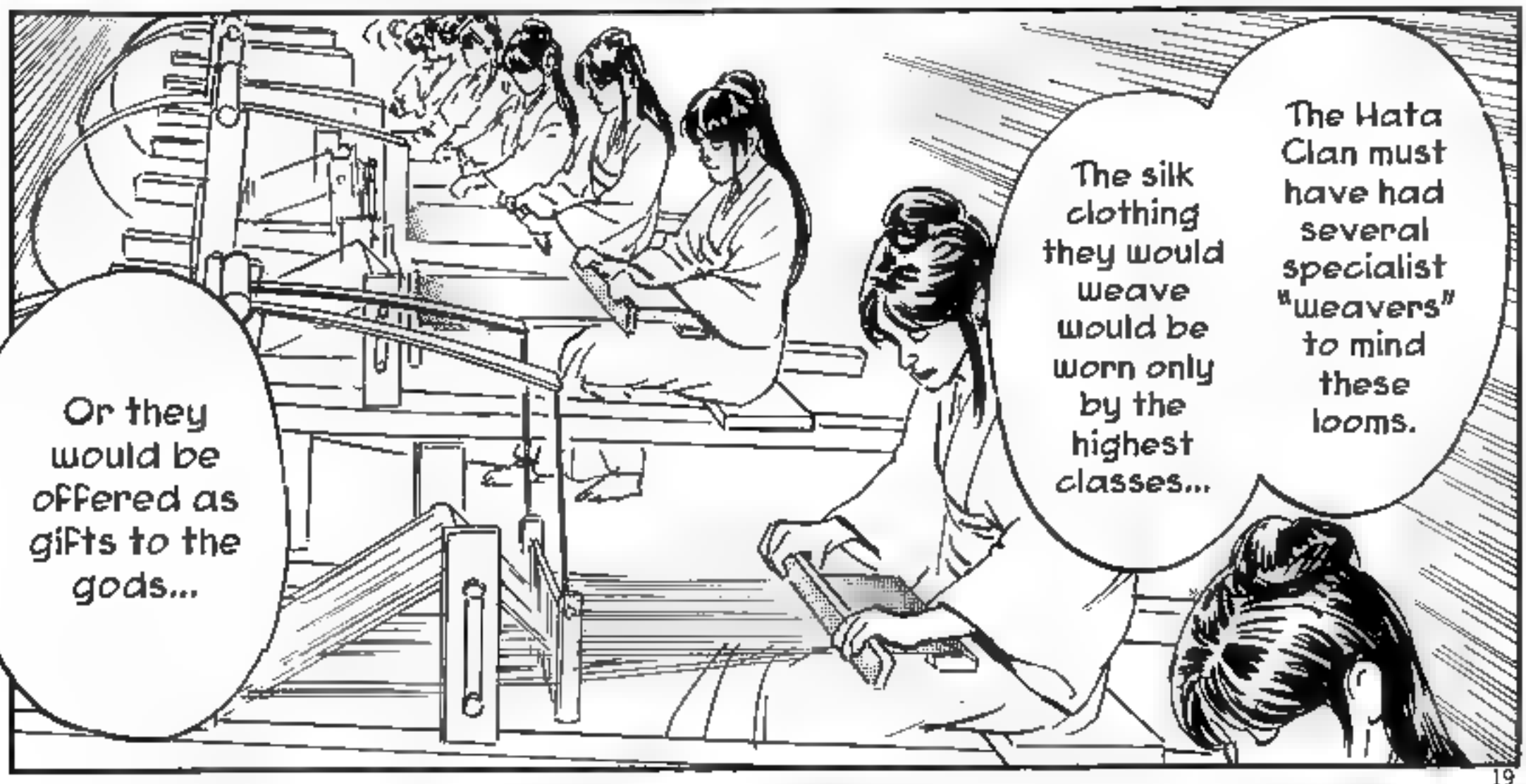
Munakata Grand Shrine, the main shrine of our family's Amateru Hoakari Shrine, has a model of that very thing...

Up until then, Japan had very primitive weaving tools, and the settlement of the Hata Clan must have brought in advanced weaving technology.

And this is the "tanabata"!

It's a loom with a base, sometimes called a "ground loom" or "high loom"...




Or they would be offered as gifts to the gods...
The silk clothing they would weave would be worn only by the highest classes...
The Hata Clan must have had several specialist "weavers" to mind these looms.

This means that there is a high possibility that the Hata Clan, who originated from China, brought the Tanabata Festival to Japan and rooted it here!
This coincides with the weaver of "Tanabata", who weaved for the Heavenly Emperor!

Hello...?
O...Oh, hi,
Nikos!

You saw what on the news...? Ox bones in Hiroshima...?

Nikos ...?

When did he get her number ...?

Hata Village,
Toyota District

Seven ox skulls with no bodies... Were they washed downstream ...?

I'm Yuki From South Hiroshima University.

We were excavating a Kofun-era settlement, when we happened on the remains of an old river. That's where we found these...

Niko! Over here!

Niko ...?

Could this be the same as the sacrifice ritual that was conducted in China...?

I decided to come here as soon as I saw this on the news. So I phoned on my way...

Yes, thank you.

Actually, we just excavated this today...

It was also conducted in Japan under the name of the Ox-Slaying Festival...

These traditions existed until just recently in areas such as Hiroshima, Wakayama, and Tohoku.

These wooden statues must have served as stand-ins as the times changed...

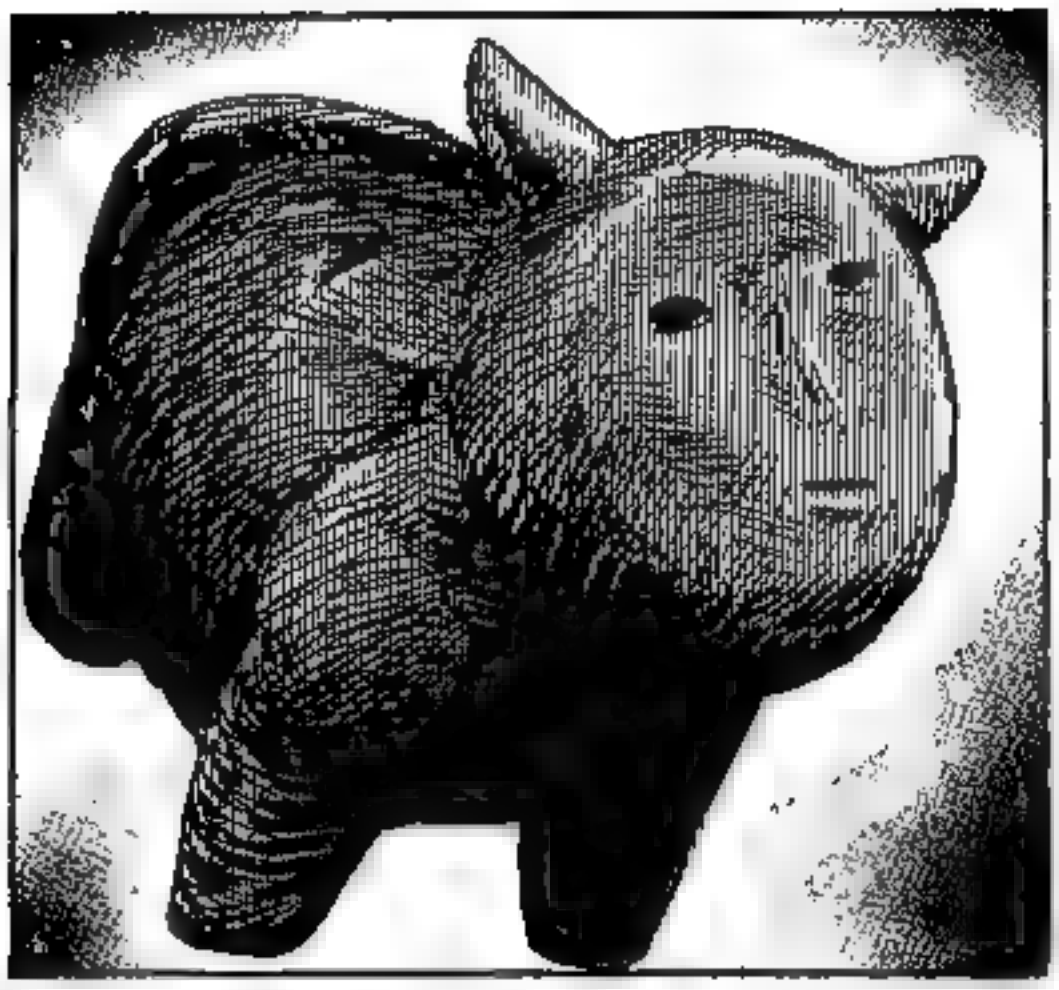
Let me see that.

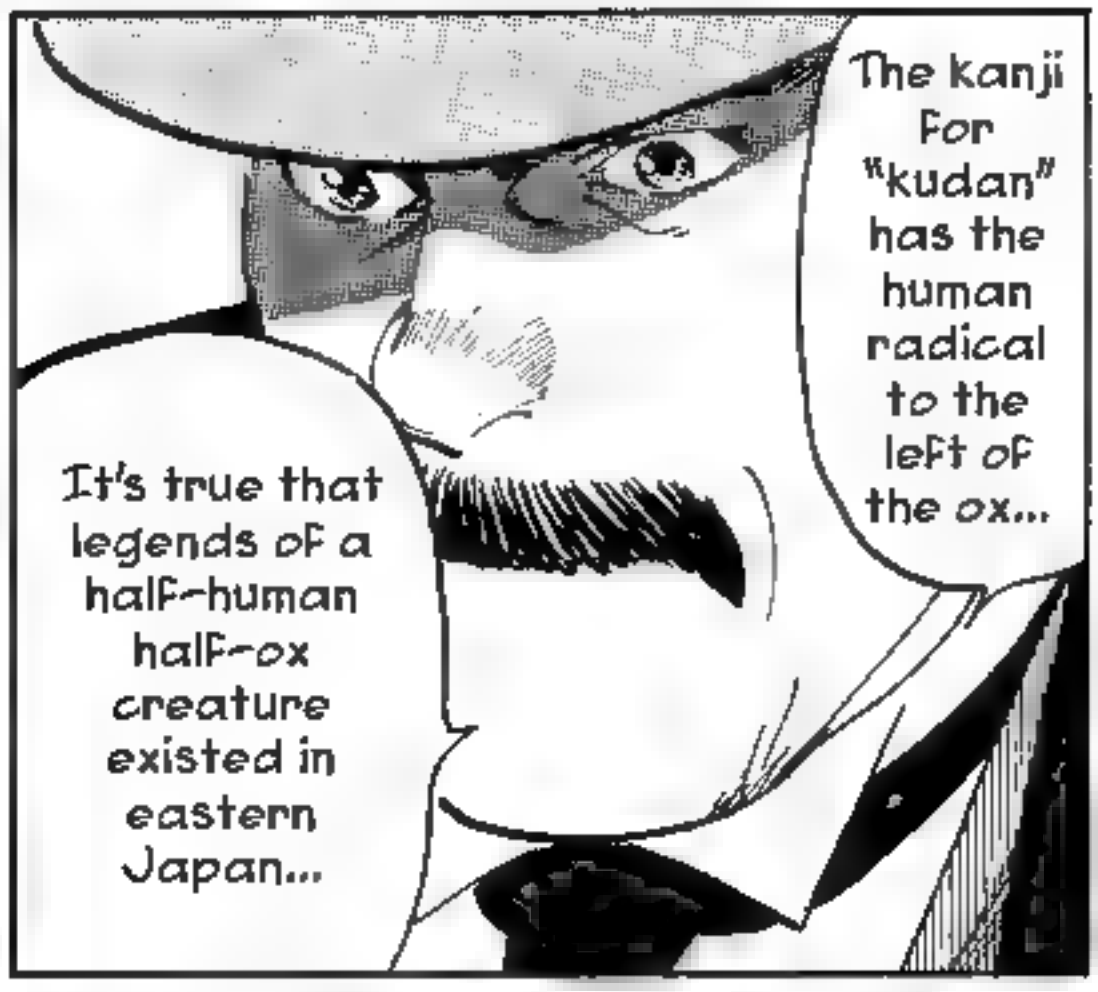
Does this cow... look like it has a human face to you?

It has the body of an ox and the face of a man... And there were rumors that such a creature would be birthed from time to time...

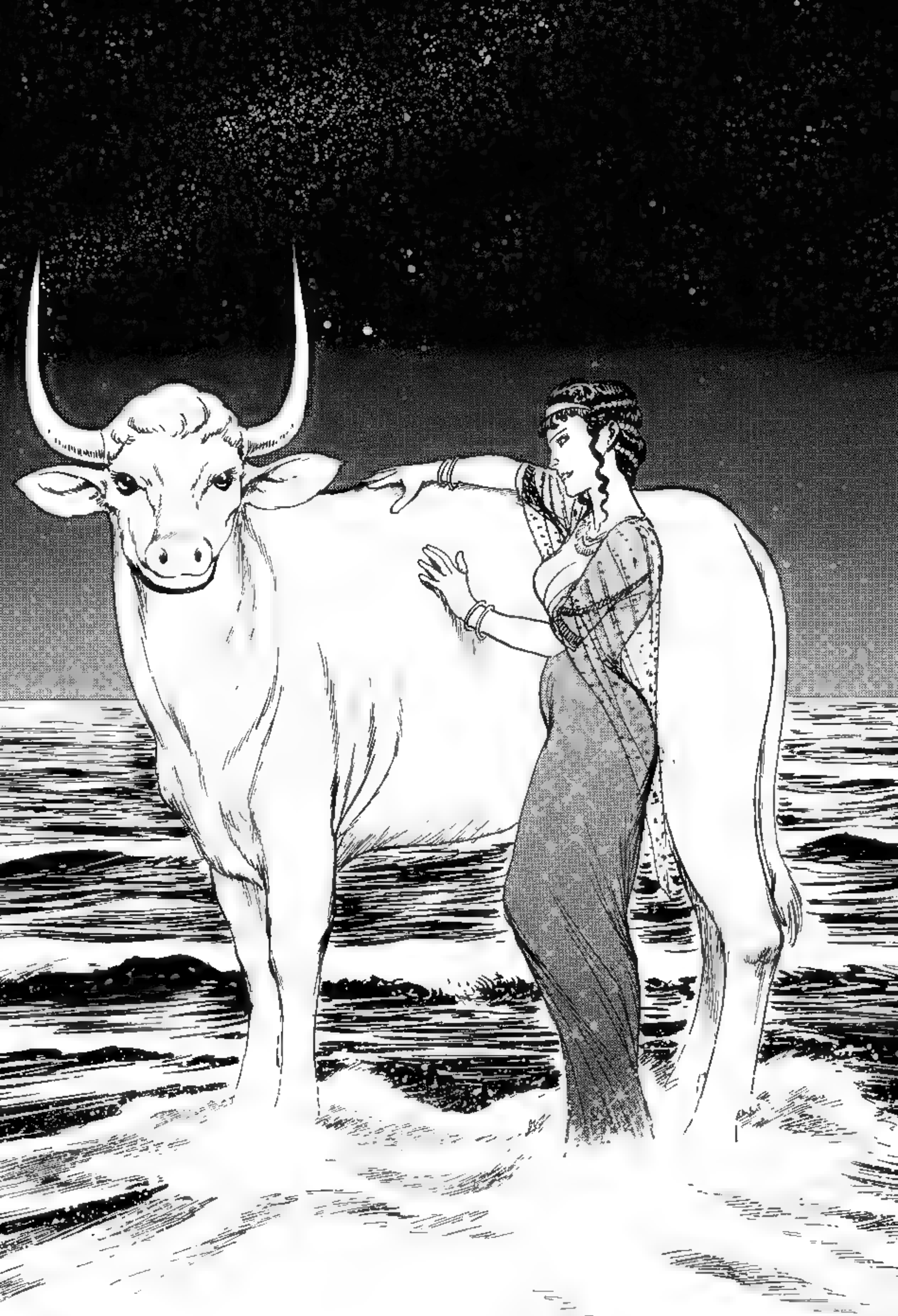
Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan Vol. 2

Lafcaido Hearn's book "Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan" had a short description of a monster called the "Kudan".




The kanji for "kudan" has the human radical to the left of the ox...
It's true that legends of a half-human half-ox creature existed in eastern Japan...

If the Ox-Driver were really an ox instead of a human...
Professor Munakata... this is what I really wanted to ask you.
Would that mean that the Weaver loved an ox?



According to Greek myth

On the island of Crete, looking out over the azure Aegean Sea, there was the kingdom of King Minos.

Minos prayed to Poseidon, God of the Sea, to provide him with a bull to sacrifice

But the bull he was given was so beautiful that King Minos was unwilling to relinquish it, and sacrificed another bull in its stead

Poseidon's rage was directed at King Minos' wife, Pasiphae

Pasiphae was overcome by an abnormal lust, and she made love to the divine bull..

The months passed, and Pasiphae gave birth to an accursed child

The Minotaur ..

A monster that was half man and half bull

29

Hata Village, Hiroshima Prefecture Settlement Excavation Site

The Grecian-born Lafcaido Hearn must have thought the same thing..

The Minotaur and the "Kudan"... I think they are quite similar

天保七年

大豊年ならんとする兆なり

Not to mention that its birth would prophesy war or natural disasters...

There are surviving Edo-period tile prints about the "Kudan", and they seem to say that it is a man-faced beast that only tells the truth.

That's why the Heavenly Emperor separated them by the Celestial River...

The Weaver made love to the sacrificial bull... or the Ox-Drawen and gave birth to their child!

Professor Munakata, I've been thinking...

What if, long ago, this Greek myth became the origin of China and Japan's Tanabata legend?

31

YOU MEAN... THAT THE WEAVER GAVE BIRTH TO THE HALF-MAN HALF-OX "KUDAN"...! ARE YOU SAYING THAT WAS THE ORIGINAL STORY!?

The "Kudan" was more like an Edo-period urban legend. Haven't you looked into it at all...?

It's not nearly as old as Tanabata is.

While they have excavated wood carvings of "man-faced beasts" from Yayoi-period ruins, I'm afraid your theory's not possible, Marinatos.

カ〃タタン タタン

.....

Not to mention that neither China nor Japan has any legend of the Weaver giving birth to any "Kudan"... There's just no way to tie it in.

If we were to follow your theory, there would have to be a very serious taboo behind the reason that the Weaver and the Ox-Drawer were separated...

We ought to think of the monster as a representation of a more realistic taboo.

A human having intercourse with a cow is a taboo against humanity, but it's biologically impossible for a half-man half-bull monster to be born as a result.

33

And what was that?

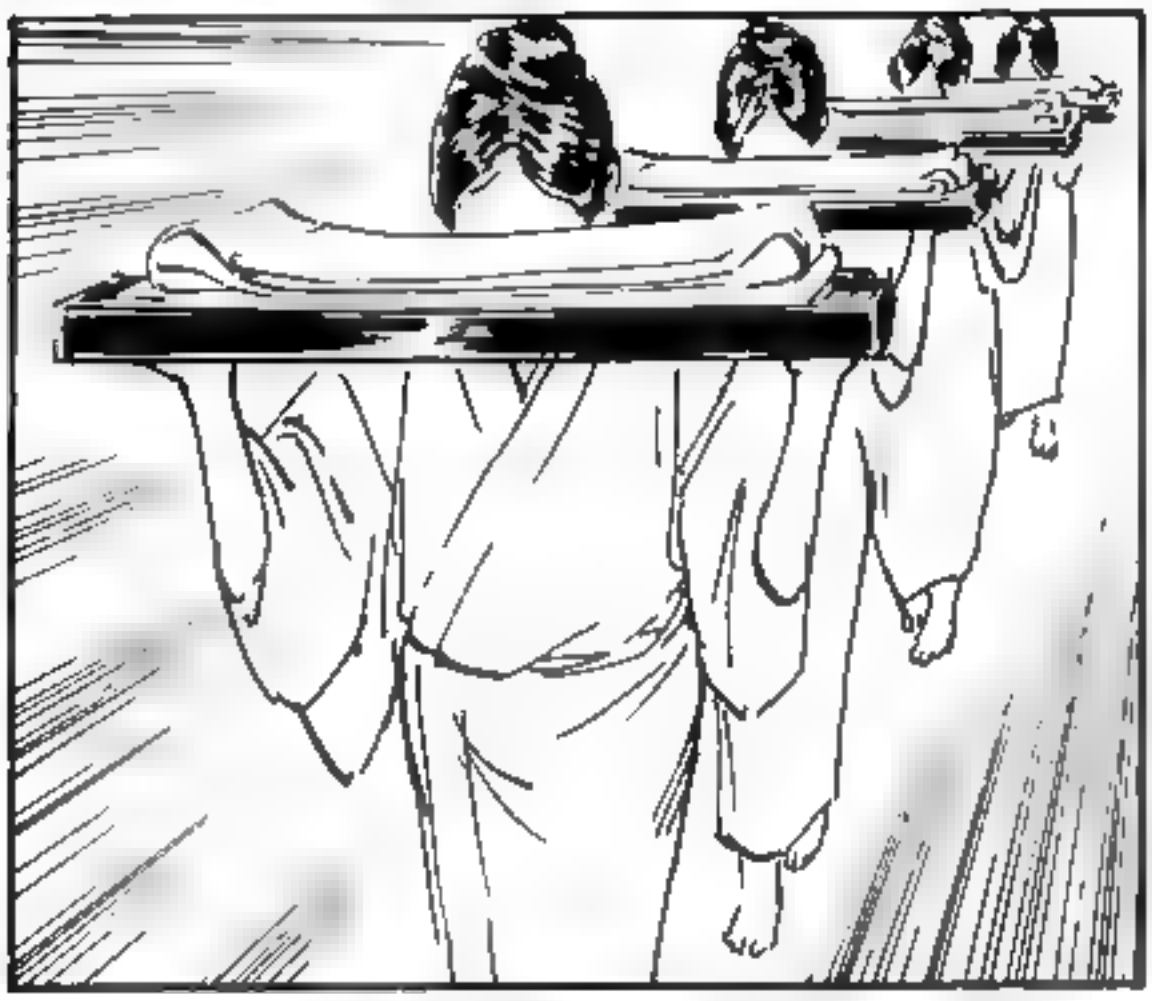
What was the serious taboo....!?

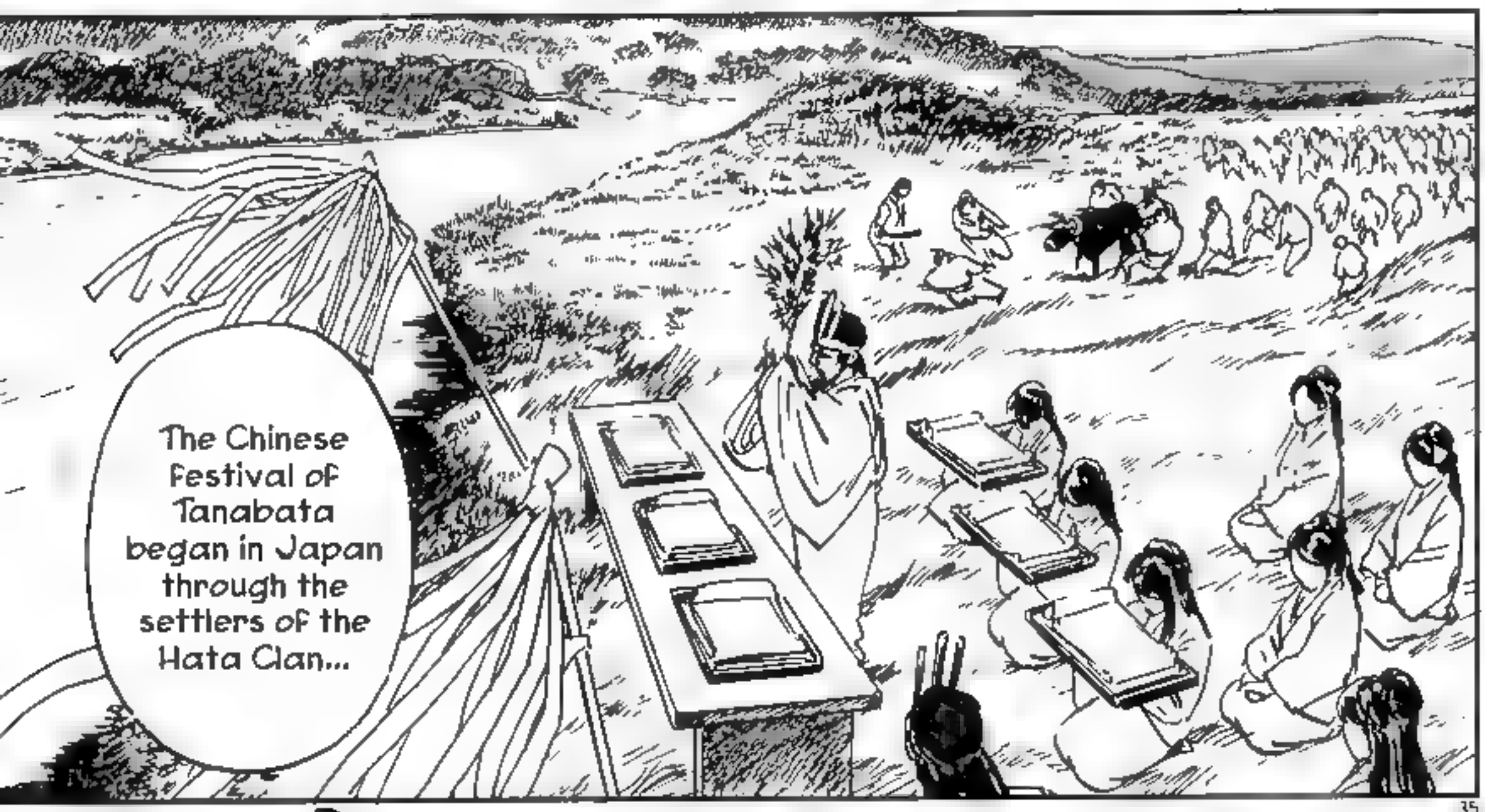
Oh, thank you, Taki. Here, try it, Marinatos. I'll bet they don't have station lunchboxes in Greece.

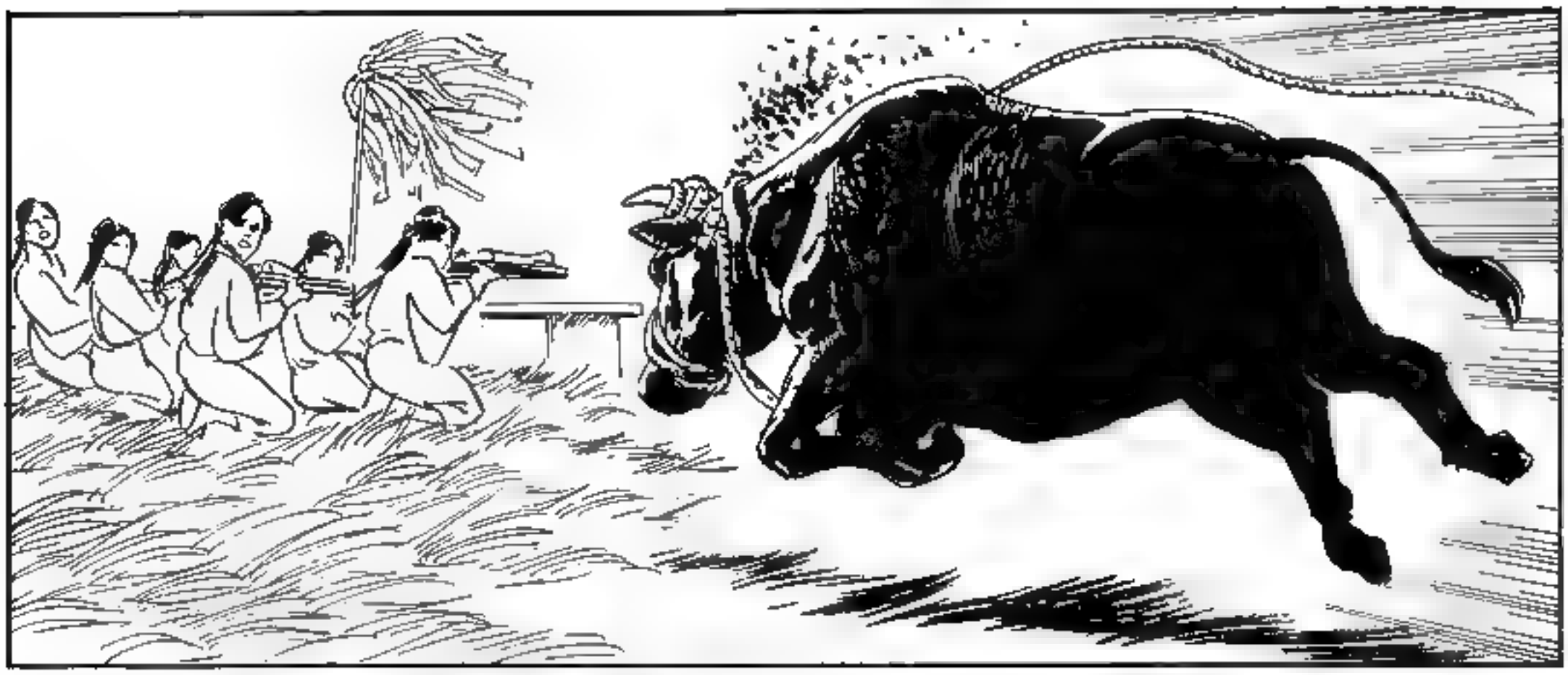
I'm back! I bought us some Japanese beef lunch-boxes!

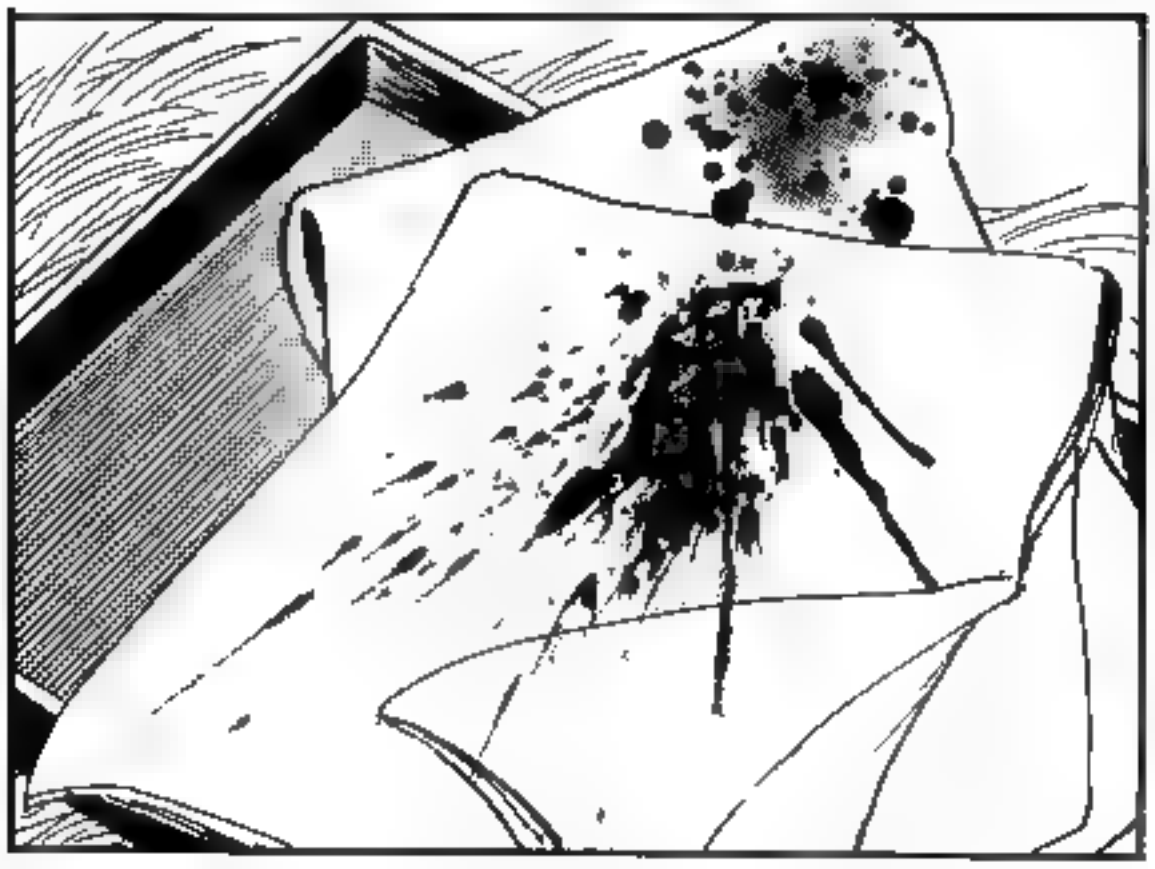
……

モク モク モク モク




The Chinese Festival of Tanabata began in Japan through the settlers of the Hata Clan...





The sun goddess Amaterasu was in the weaving shop of Takamagahara, having the weaving maidens weave the celestial garments, when her brother Susanoo threw a flayed horse at her from above.

There is a possibility that this myth coincides with the global image of the "Solar Horse", but there is a theory that Susanoo originally threw a skinned bull...

The celestial weavers died, and Amaterasu hid in Ame-no-Iwato, plunging the world into darkness...

Throwing a bloody beast into a weaving shop where divine garments were being weaved would have violated a major taboo.

I think that this myth is an alternate form of the Tanabata legend.

They accepted only the weavers' weaving from the Hata Clan's Tanabata, yet forbade the sacrifice of the bulls.

This is because the Japanese gods adore purity, and despise the taint of blood most of all.

38

Eventually, the story of Tanabata alone was established as a legend of the stars...

But it seems that this taboo was broken from time to time. Take the ruins of Hata Village, for instance.

I...Is that it? Is that all the taboo of Tanabata was...?

Aya-no-Kami referred to the Chinese gods, meaning the farmers may have been clinging to their rituals involving rain.

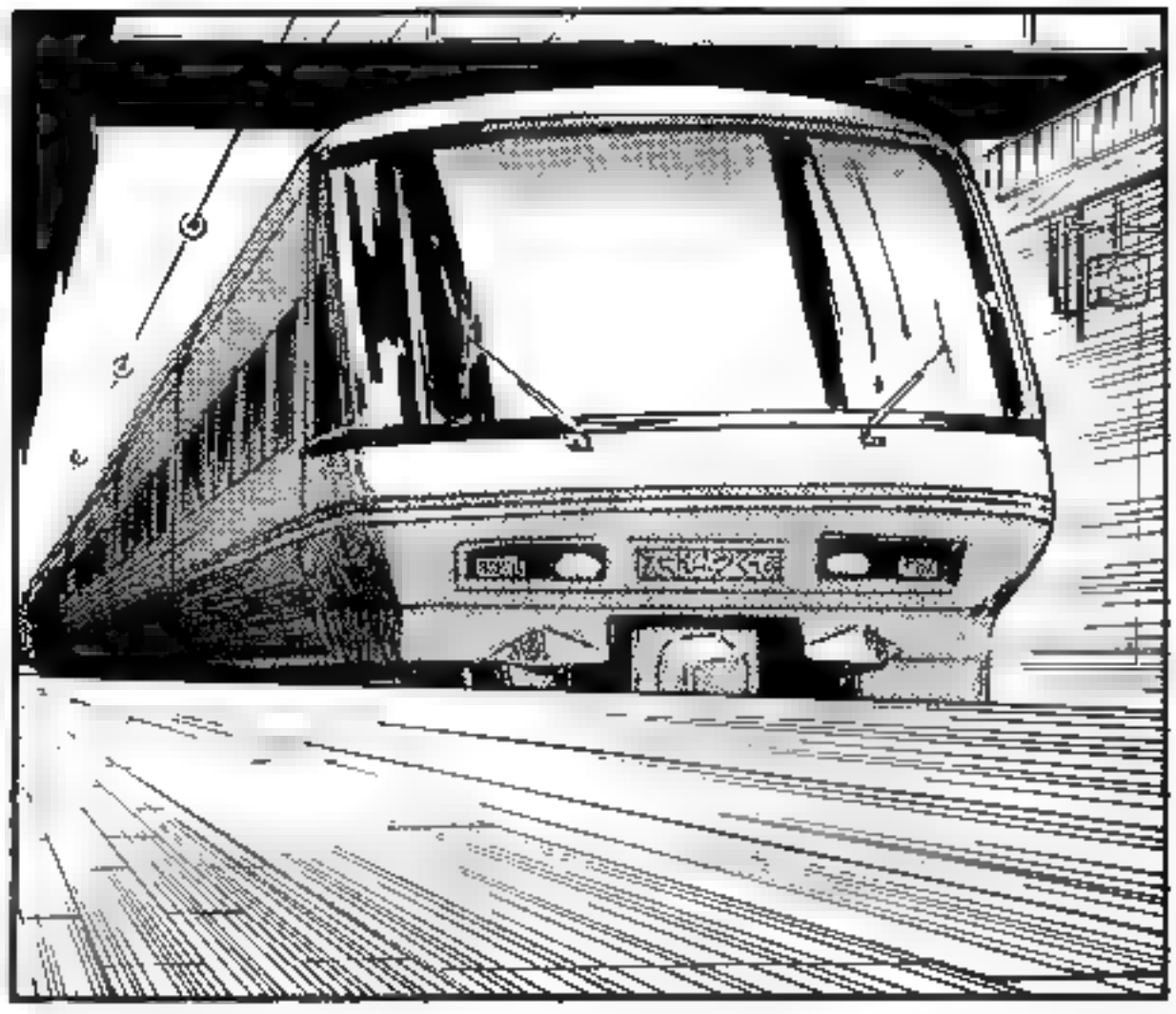
The "Shoku Nihongi" states that during the Enryaku years (8th-9th Century), farmers in the Kinki region, such as in Ise, Echizen, and Kii, were forbidden from slaughtering their cattle and sacrificing them to Aya-no-Kami.

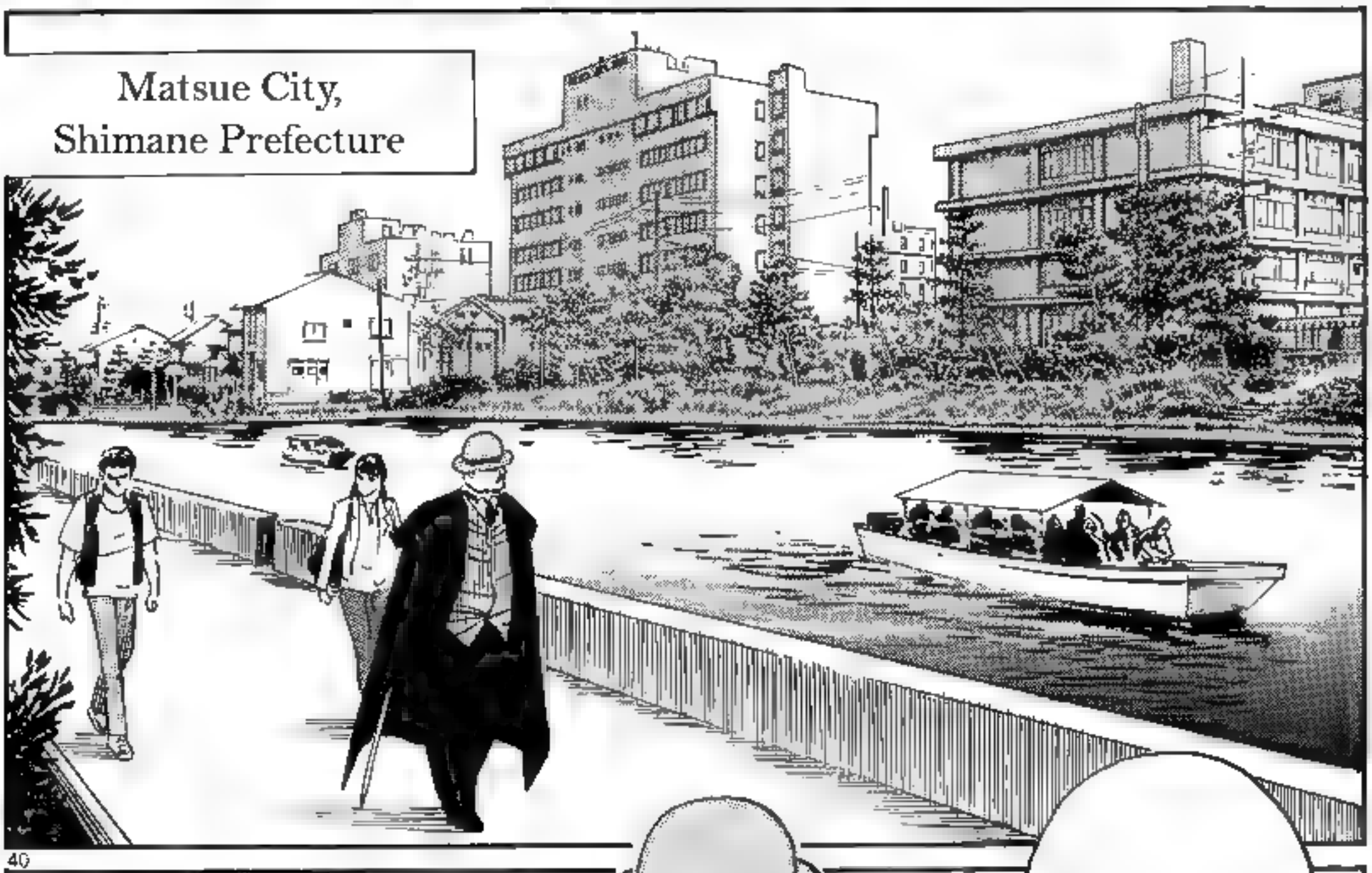
Noth-ing!

For now, at least!

You mean... that there's nothing connecting it to Greek mythology !?

Super-Express Yakumo




Matsue City,
Shimane Prefecture

I thought I'd show you around here while we're in the area, Marinatos.
Koizumi Yakumo... also known as Lafcadio Hearn,
lived here in Matsue, Izumo, and left a rather deep impression.

I appreciate the thought... But I think I overestimated you, Professor Munakata.

But I was wrong... You only look at the small island of Japan.

I heard that you are a freer and broad-thinking scholar.

I'm disappointed in you...

Nikos...

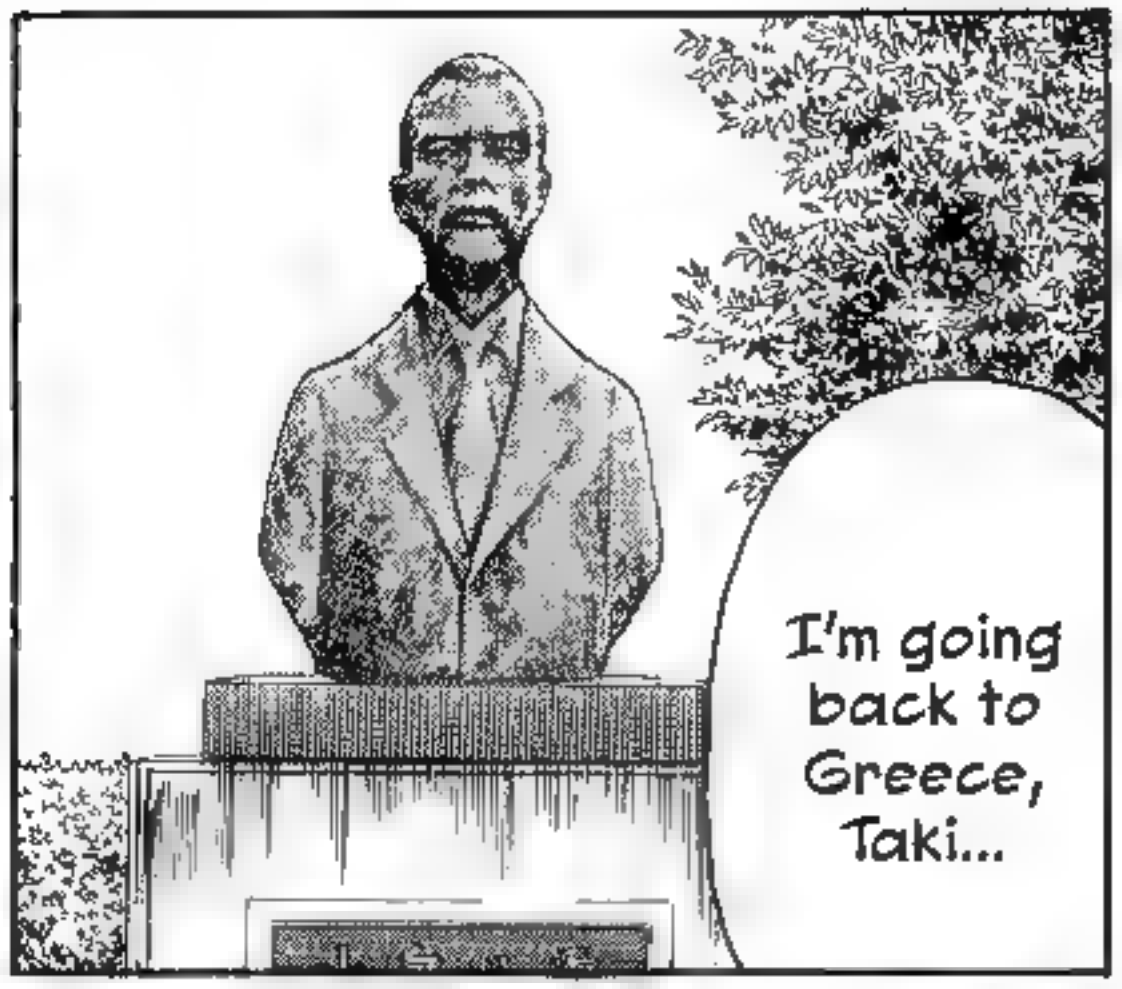
Hmm...

NIKO!

.....

42

I guess this must've been how Lafcadio felt a hundred years ago...



43

The Hata Clan's "Tana-bata" loom survived as the name of the ritual, and the actual ritual became lost through the generations.

...In other words,

The tradition of weavers offering their weaving to the gods continued, but the custom of sacrificing bulls was abolished.

But the custom's traces still remain...

The Hata Clan's Family temple in Uzumaki, Koryu Temple, still conducts the "Ox Festival", regarded as one of the Three Great Strange Festivals of Kyoto.

It's a strange Festival where an ox is paraded through town with the god "Matara" tied backwards on its back. Some say that the god Matara came over From China...

Perhaps this was a ritual that was separated from Tanabata, much like the Ox-Driver... That's what I imagine, anyway.

If the Aya-no-Kami of the Shoku Nihongi is the same one as Matara...

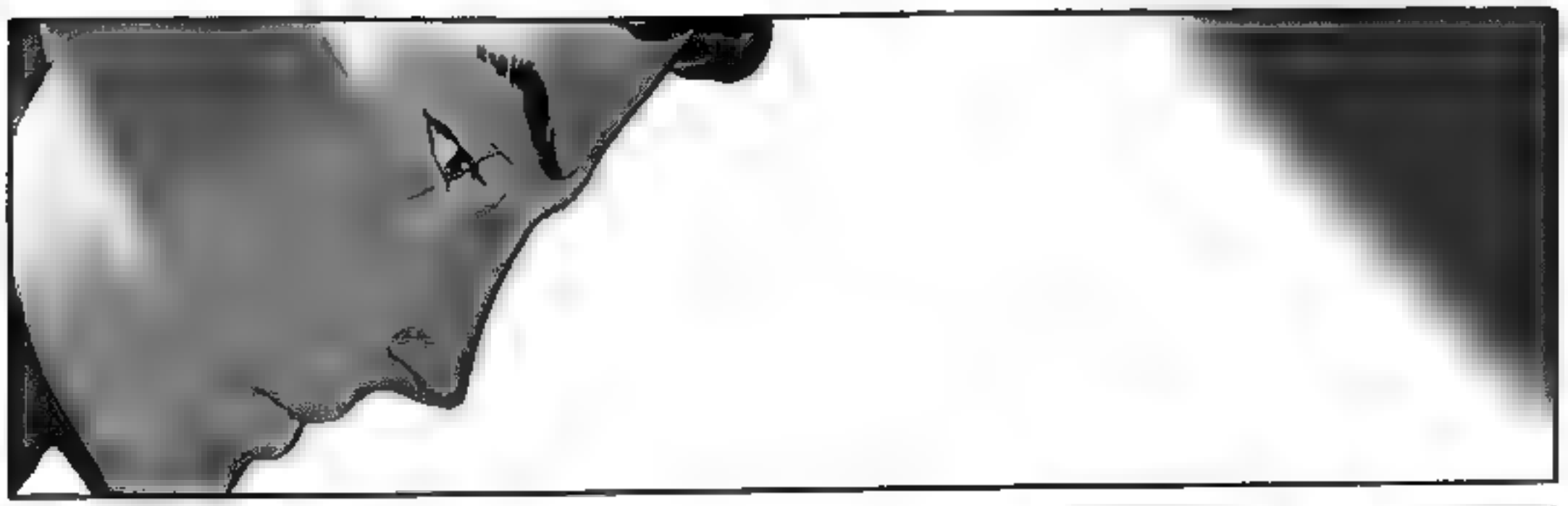
then this may be the last vestiges of a festival in which bulls were sacri-ficed.

46

Taki... What a silly girl. Is she still knitting that...?

47

On top of that, she's even changed the colors and given it a more juvenile design. Does she really think I'd wear...



Mama
...

.....

Greece

52

53

PROFES-
SOR
MUNA-
KATA...
TAKI...

Taki said she missed you, so I took her along...

You gave the university office such a hard time by returning to Greece so suddenly. I heard you were attending the University of Athens, so I asked around for you.

I'm sorry...

After that, I thought about what you had said.

I've wrapped up the lecture by saying that Tanabata came from China to Japan. I had to summarize it within those bounds for time's sake...

between Tanabata and Greek mythology, between the "Kudan" and the Minotaur...?

Was there actually a connection,

Would you care to accompany me to Crete?

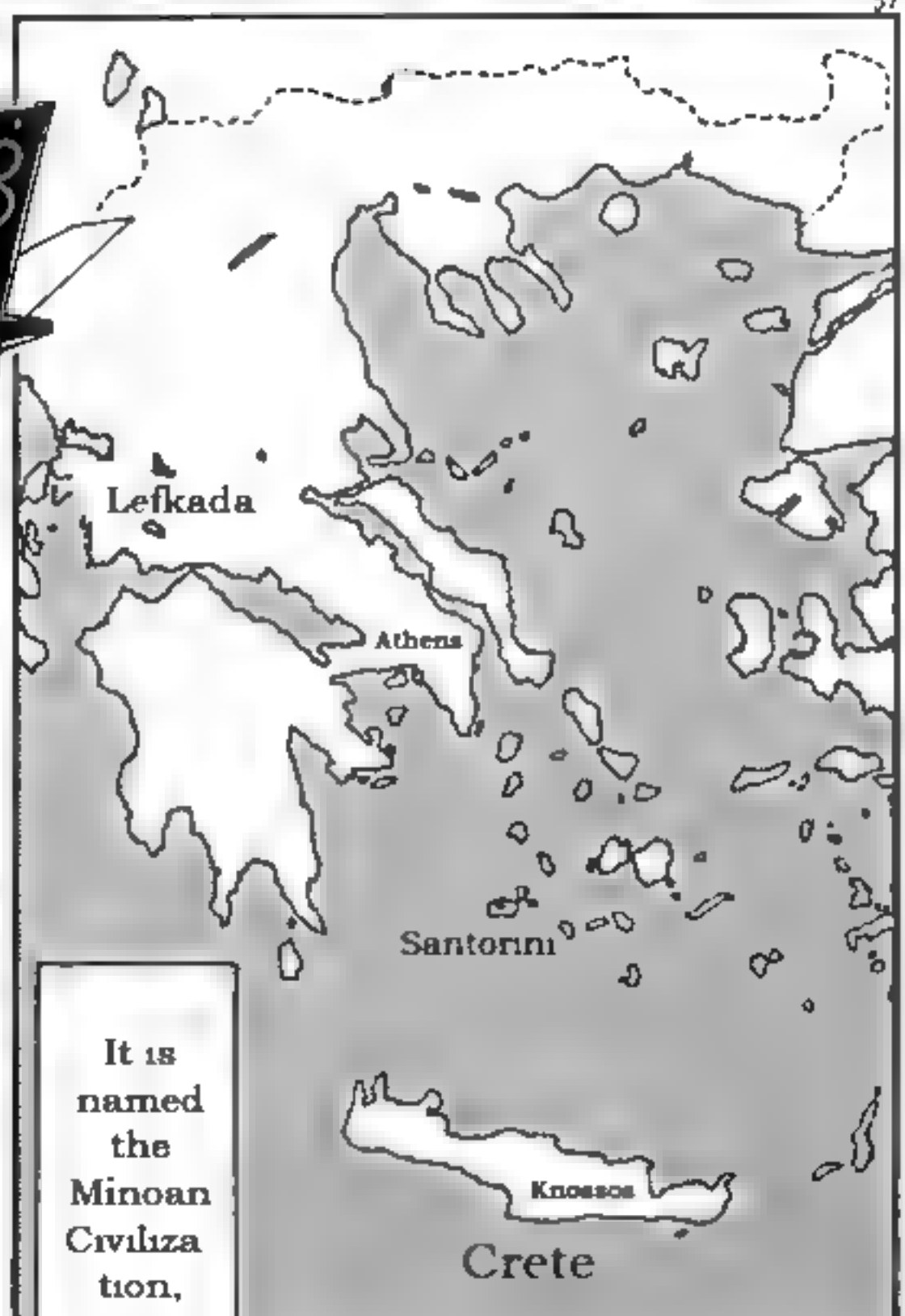
Crete !?

I've come all this way just to give you my answer

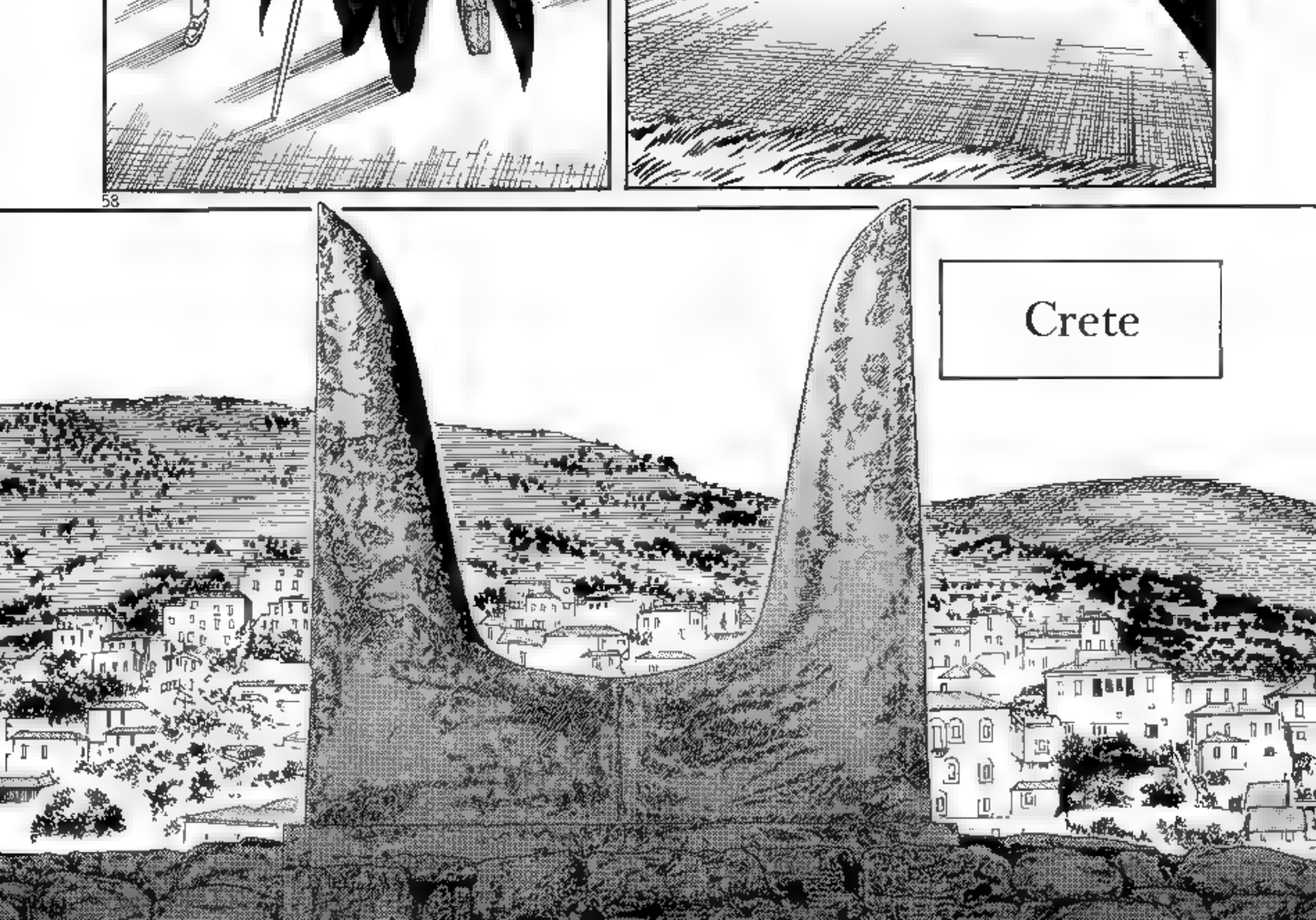
ATHENA

Before the ancient Greek civilization claimed their hegemony, the economic and cultural center of the Aegean Sea was not the Greek mainland, but the southern island of Crete

57



It is named the Minoan Civiliza tion, after the myth



Crete

Knossos Palace Ruins

Yes... It was a culture of bulls. They apparently believed in the sacred bull.

The Minoan Civilization that prospered 3500 years ago seemed to have a very peculiar culture.

It was famous for the "Bull-leaping" competition, which was known as far away as Egypt...

Incidentally, Spain's "Running of the Bulls" begins on July 7th of every year. It could be that Cretan bull-leaping was held on that day as well...

Some say that modern bullfighting and cattle droving are part of its legacy...

July 7th...

61

183

62

Each successive king was called "Minos", but excavations have determined that there was a dark and barbaric side underlying their long age of prosperity.

Some say that the children were tribute from Greece, which was practically a vassal nation at that point...

There are traces of a festival where not only animals, but human children were sacrificed, and their flesh eaten.

But then the Minoan civilization of Crete was suddenly destroyed one day...!!

In 1450 BCE...

64

THE VOLCANIC ISLAND OF SANTORINI, A MERE 100KM NORTH OF HERE, ERUPTED...!

Then the sea trembled...

The ashes covered the sky, making it as dark as night in the middle of the day.

And an unprecedented-edly massive tsunami, 200m high, crashed upon the shore.

The center of the Santorini Island, which prospered along with Crete, was plunged into the sea just like the legend, and even to this day it tells of how massive the eruption was

There is a theory that this disaster is the truth behind the legend of Atlantis that Plato wrote of.

Crete was eventually restored, but they were conquered by the rising Greeks, and they never reclaimed their lost glory.

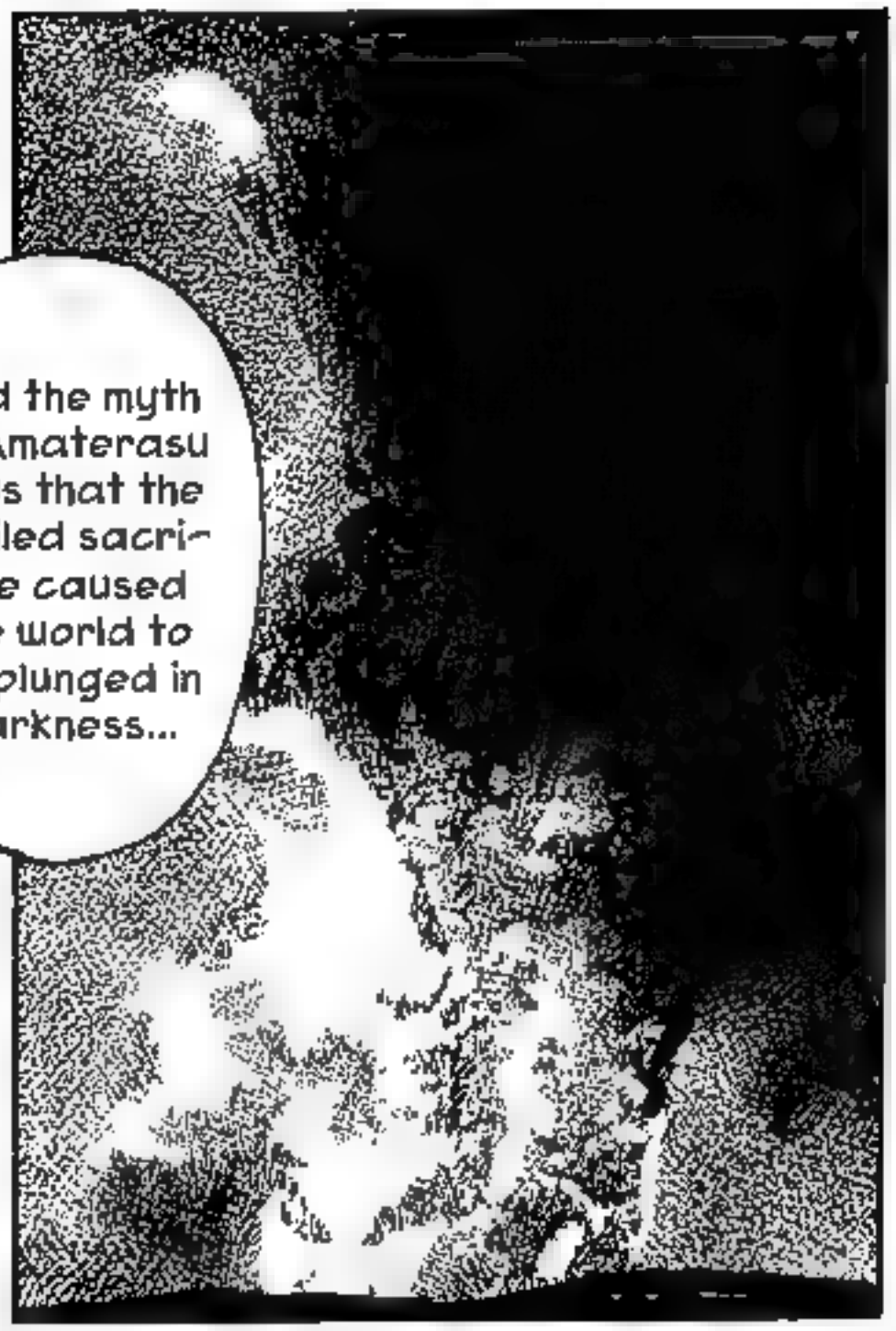
Until it was unearthed by Arthur Evans in the 20th Century...

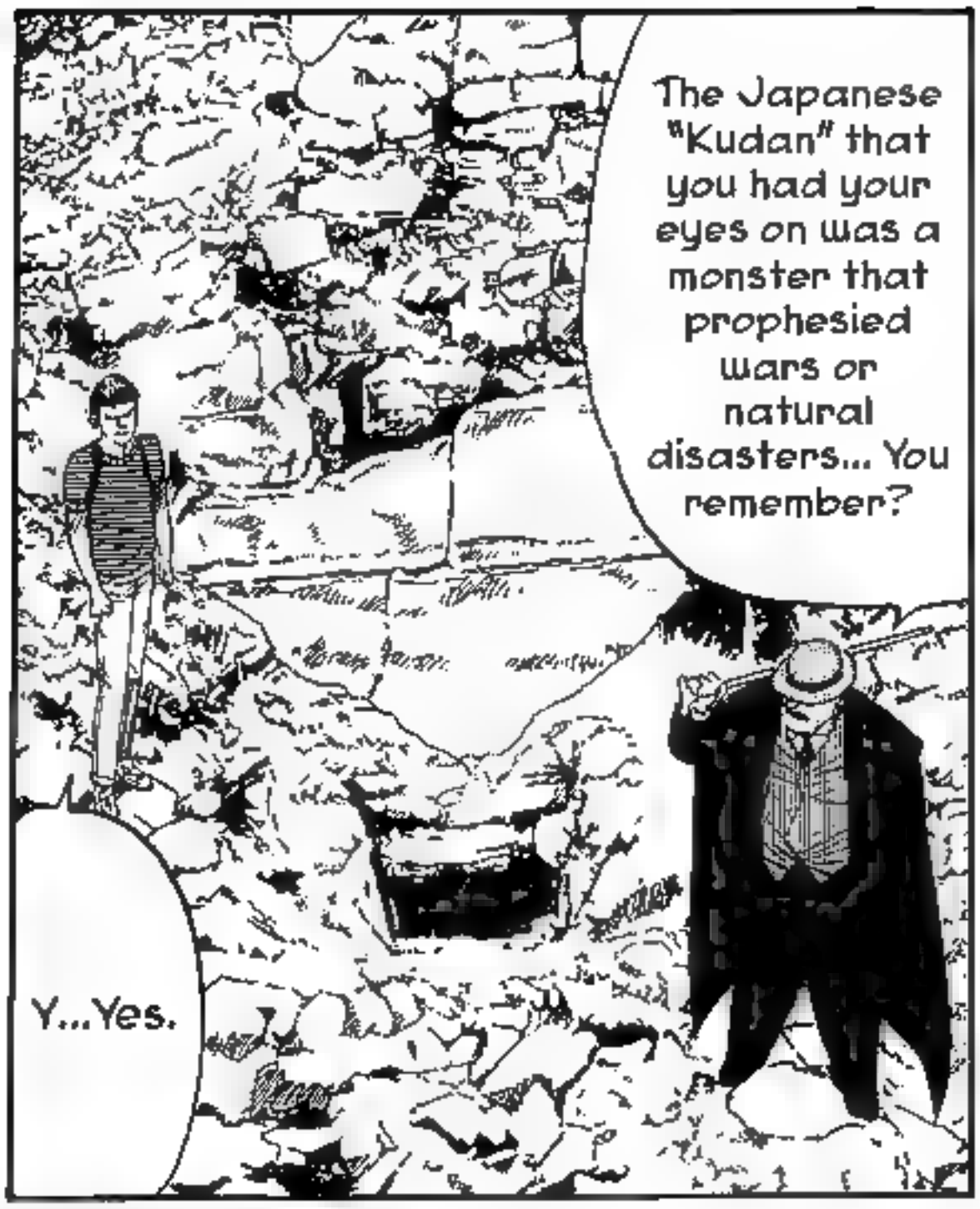
Yes... And the Minoan civilization was forgotten.

.....

Meeowwwww...

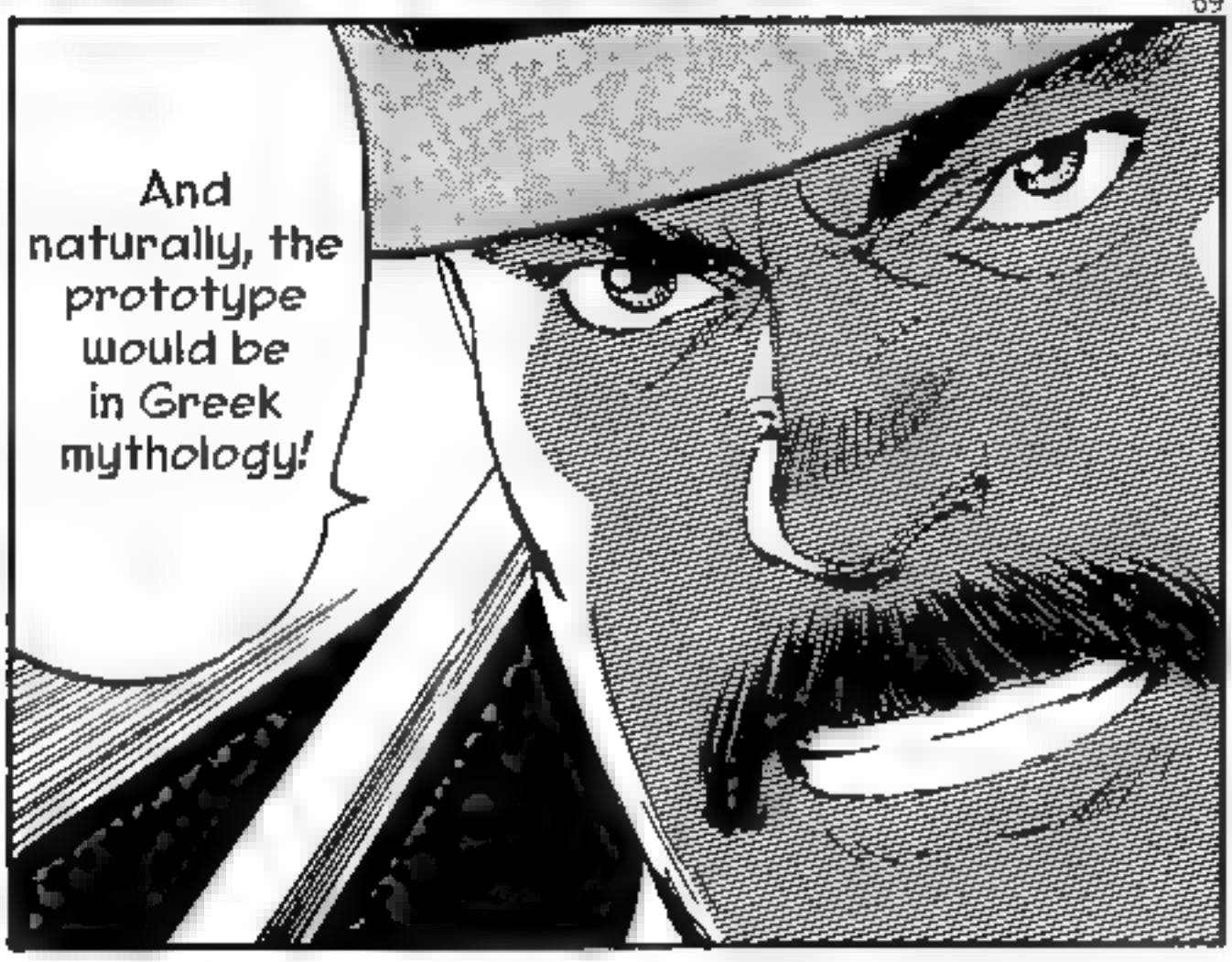
Hehe... You want some?


And the myth of Amaterasu says that the defiled sacrifice caused the world to be plunged in darkness...


The Japanese "Kudan" that you had your eyes on was a monster that prophesied wars or natural disasters... You remember?
Y...Yes.

I've changed my mind. The tsunami in the ancient Aegean Sea may have caused ripples in Japanese mythology!

69


And naturally, the prototype would be in Greek mythology!

Marinatos, I seem to recall you saying that the Weaver and the Ox-Drawer were separated because they violated some kind of taboo, correct?

The Greeks must have thought the same ...

The Greeks that witnessed the rise and fall of Minoan civilization must have been imagining the reason that a thriving civilization would be destroyed overnight.

The people of Crete must have made a major fault in their rituals to the gods.

Or perhaps a sin against mankind...

That is why they incurred the wrath of the God of the Sea, and received his justice...

And that was how a myth was born...

WRATH OF GOD FAULT WOMAN 0X

SEPARATION...

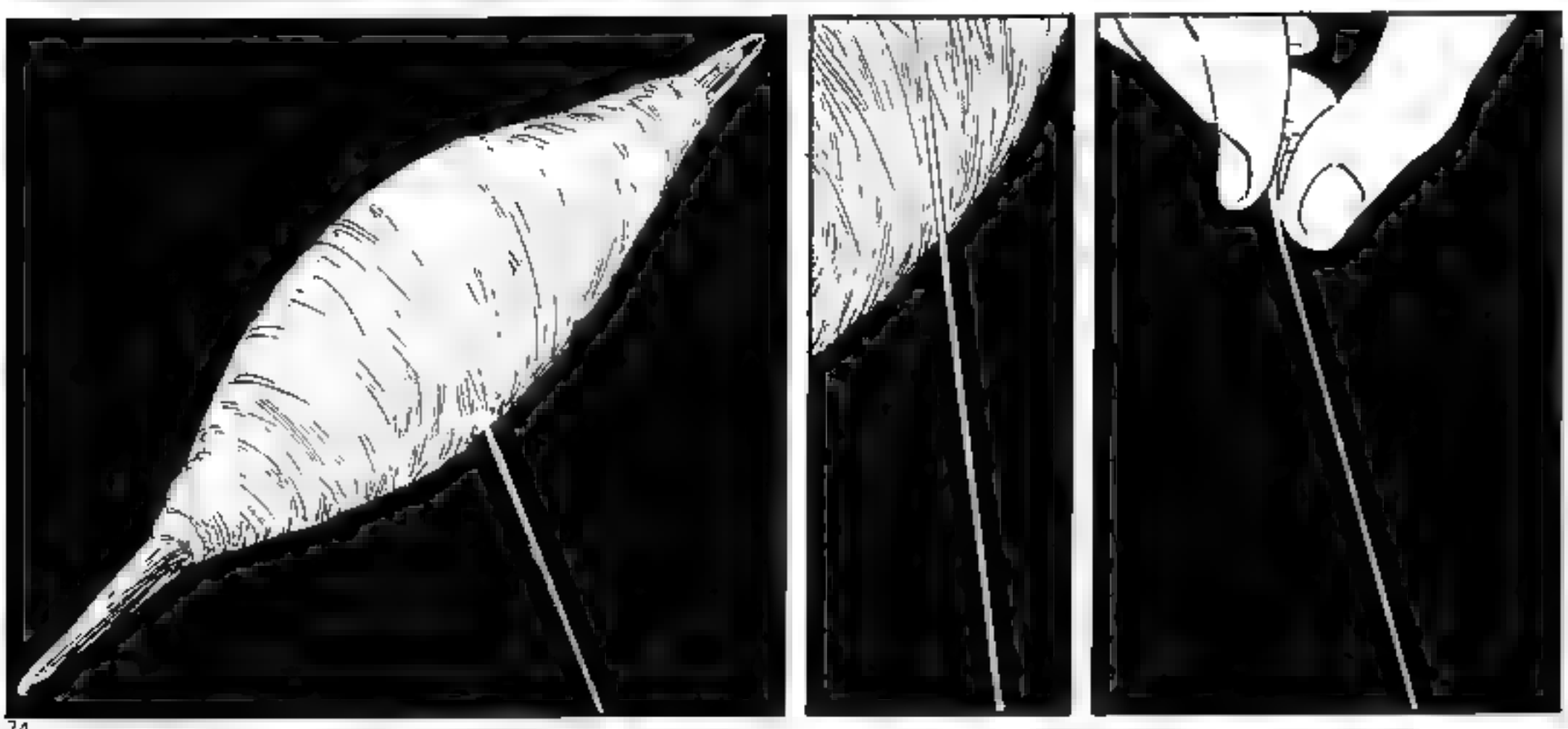
As punishment for King Minos deceiving the God of the Sea, Queen Pasiphae made love to a sacred bull and bore a child...

Her child was the half-man half-bull called the Minotaur...

The Minotaur was hidden by King Minos in the Labyrinth, where it would devour seven young men and seven maidens from Athens every year.

The Athenian hero Theseus secretly crossed over to Crete in order to slay the abominable Minotaur

And Ariadne, daughter of King Minos, fell in love with this hero at first sight...

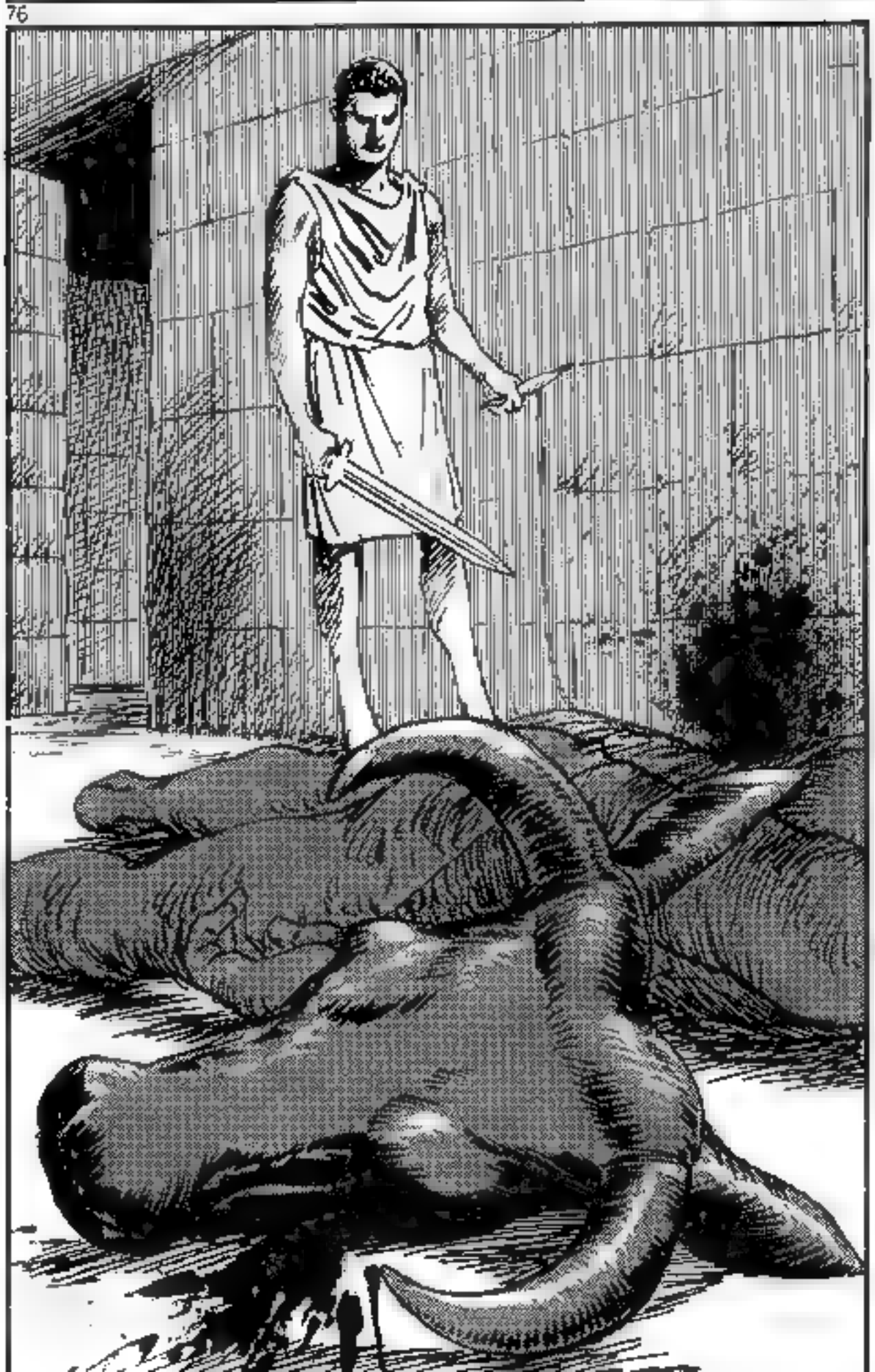


74

It is said that Ariadne, daughter of King Minos of Crete, gave a "ball of thread" to the Athenian hero Theseus.

Theseus promised Ariadne, "When my quest is complete, let us marry in Athens", and Ariadne believed him.

This is because the Minotaur that Theseus sought to slay resided in the inescapable Labyrinth. The string would allow him to escape.



And so, Theseus liberated the Athenian men and maidens who were about to become human sacrifices, and left Crete with Ariadne.
...I think that the most distant origin of the Weaver in "Tanabata" was Ariadne, who gave Theseus the ball of thread!
77
And that would naturally make Theseus, the hero who killed the Minotaur, the Ox-Drawer!

Knossos Palace Ruins, Crete

The Myth of the Minotaur was created to explain the destruction of Minoan civilization by the eruption and following tsunami.

It tells of how the wrath of Poseidon, God of the Sea, caused the destruction of King Minos and his family.

You mean that Ariadne didn't have a happy ending!?

I doubt that he would've been married to the daughter of King Minos.

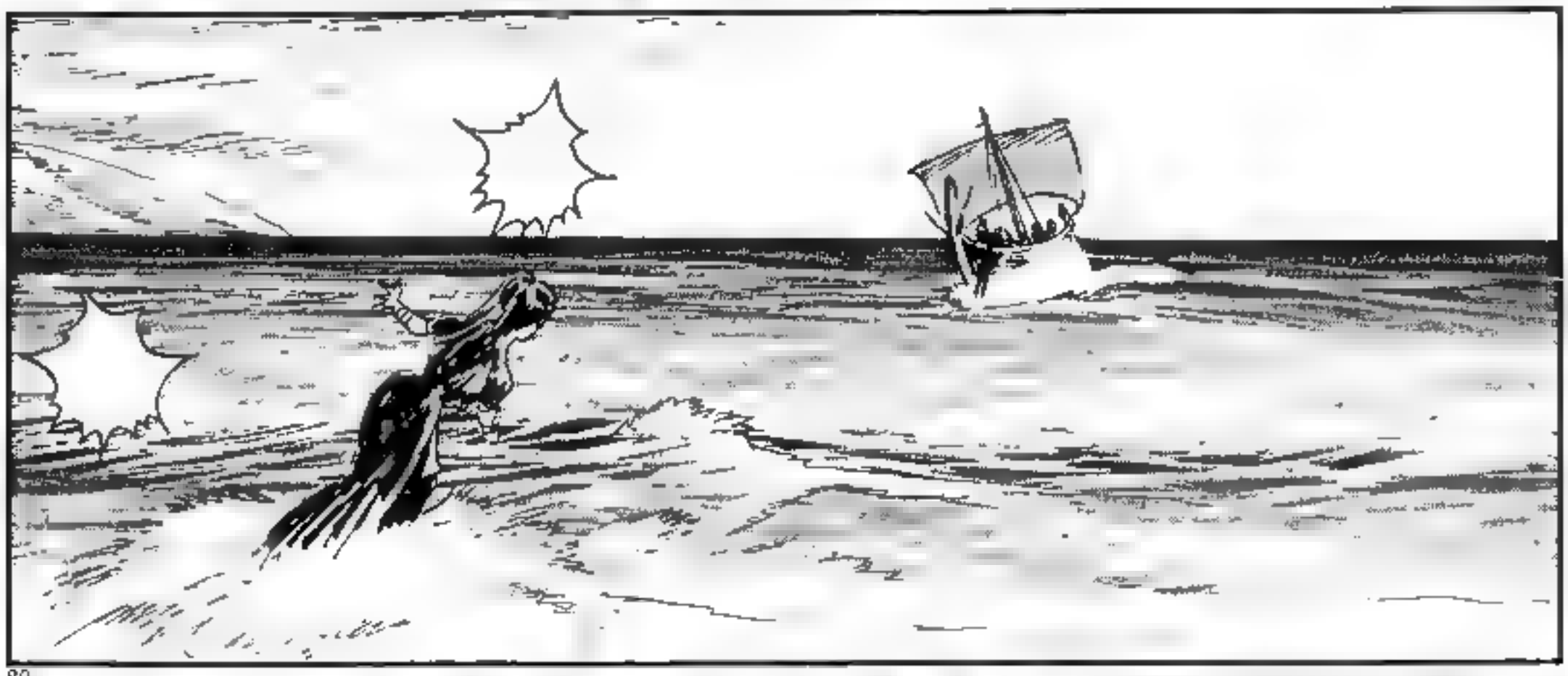
If I recall, Theseus was the son of Poseidon, Taki.

That night, Theseus and his crew landed on the island of Naxos to rest

While Theseus was dreaming, the goddess Athena, protector of Athens, appeared to him.

You must not take Ariadne.

Leave her on this island!



80

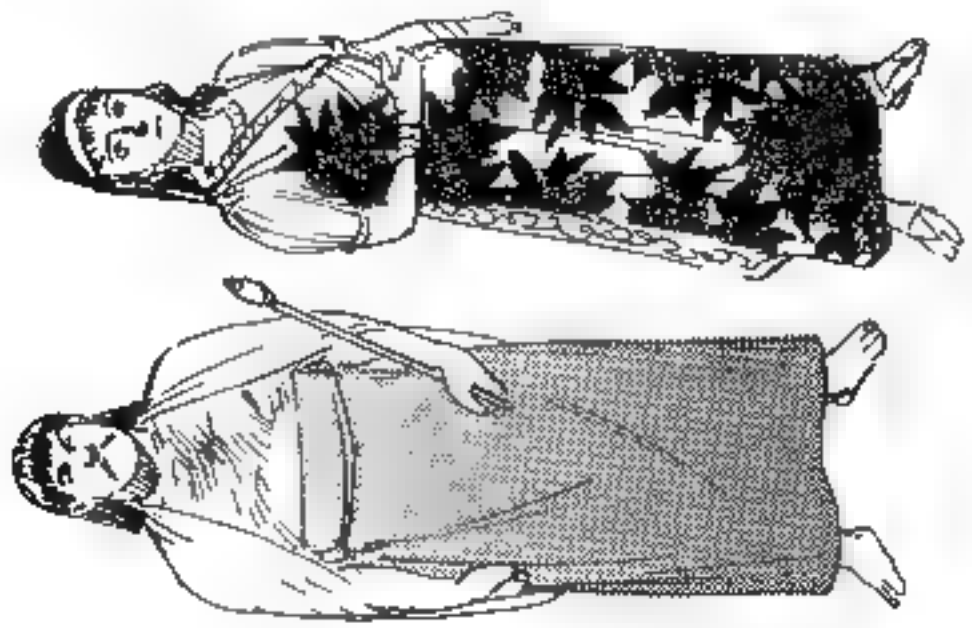
Betrayed by her lover and stranded on the island, the tragedy of Ariadne became the source material for the European opera "Ariadne auf Naxos"

The myth then ends this tragedy with King Minos' death at sea...

.....

And so according to Greek myth, the Sea God's curse succeeded in collapsing Minoan civilization...

An ox, a woman, a fault, the wrath of the gods, and separation... These are all in the Tanabata legend...!



Ariadne, Daughter of King Minos

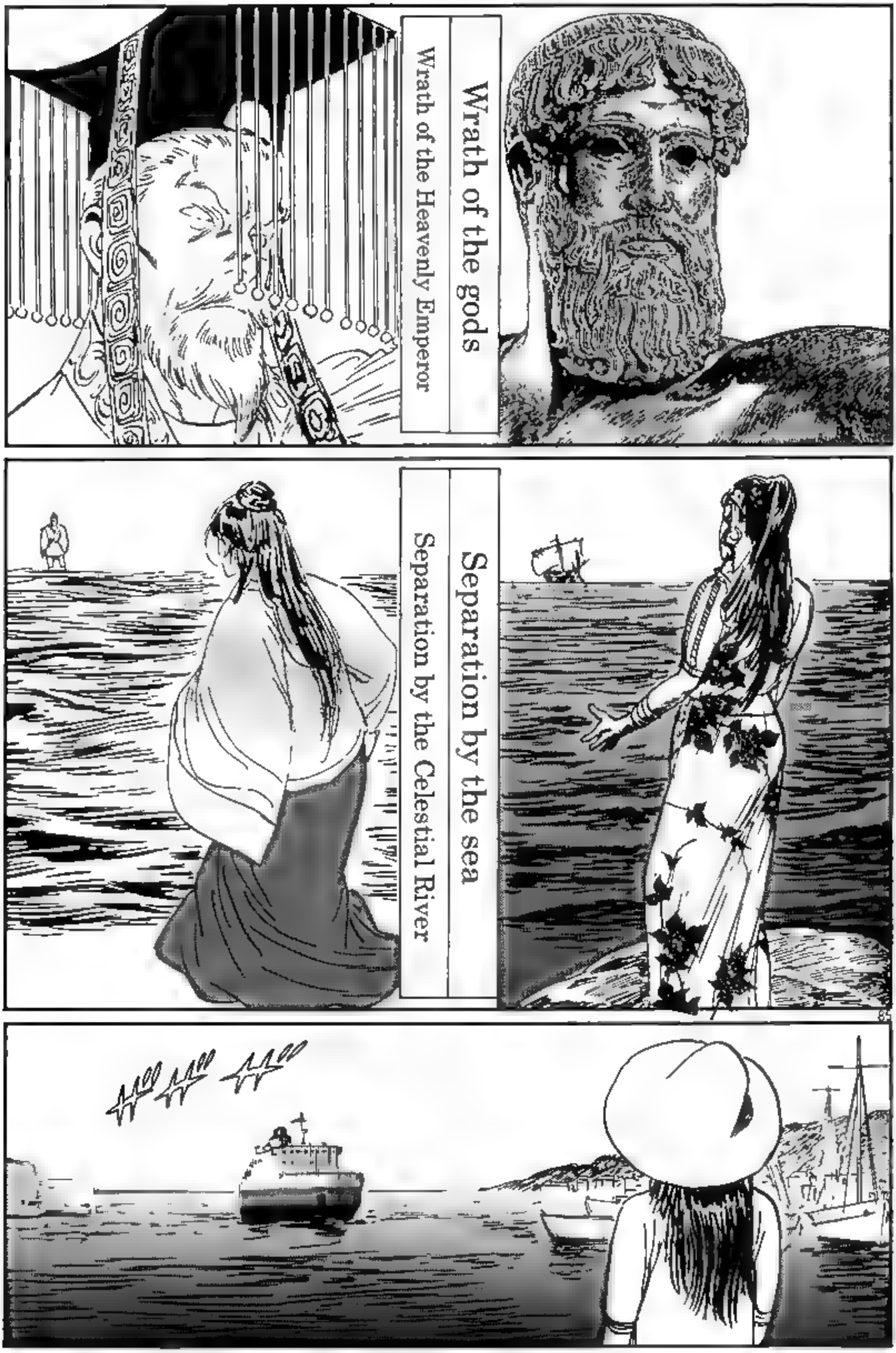
The Weaver, Daughter of
the Heavenly Emperor

Theseus, Slayer of the Minotaur

Ox-Drawer, the Oxherd

Betrays father and aids lover

Neglects weaving and becomes
obsessed with husband


Wrath of the gods
Wrath of the Heavenly Emperor
Separation by the sea
Separation by the Celestial River

There may have been a number of legends that tied oxen to eruptions and tsunamis.

The Myth of Amaterasu, where the wrath of the gods over a defiled sacrifice plunged the world into darkness...

And the "Kudan", the half-man half-ox monster that prophesies natural disasters...

gave birth to the Myth of the Minotaur, which eventually spread to East Asia.

The disaster that occurred in the Aegean Sea 3500 years ago...

After a long, long journey, it lived on in China and Japan as the tale of the "Weaver" and the "Ox-Drawer" ...

But the one they probably loved the most was the tragic love story of Ariadne.

Thank you very much, Professor Munakata...

I am the son of a Grecian and a Japanese. My mama told me before she died of illness.

Your father ?

I came to Japan to find my father.

To tell the truth...

87

Long ago, my mother met a Japanese folklorist who stayed in Lefkada for a while, then returned to Japan.

I was born shortly after...

That's why I studied Japan and Folklore...

That is why I was interested in Lafcadio Hearn, who was also born on Lefkada.

Greece

Lefkada

I heard about you and took your lectures, but I realized it from talking to you. You're not the kind of man who would abandon my mother...

I know it's not you, Professor Munakata.

A Japanese Folklorist... Wait... Uncle!?

What are you insinuating !?

And... I wanted to make him face me for abandoning my mother on Lefkada!

I wanted to meet my father and challenge him! In Folkloristics!

I see...

That's why I said those things to you, Professor Munakata. I couldn't help myself I'm sorry...

Black bull...?

She just told me he was like a black bull...

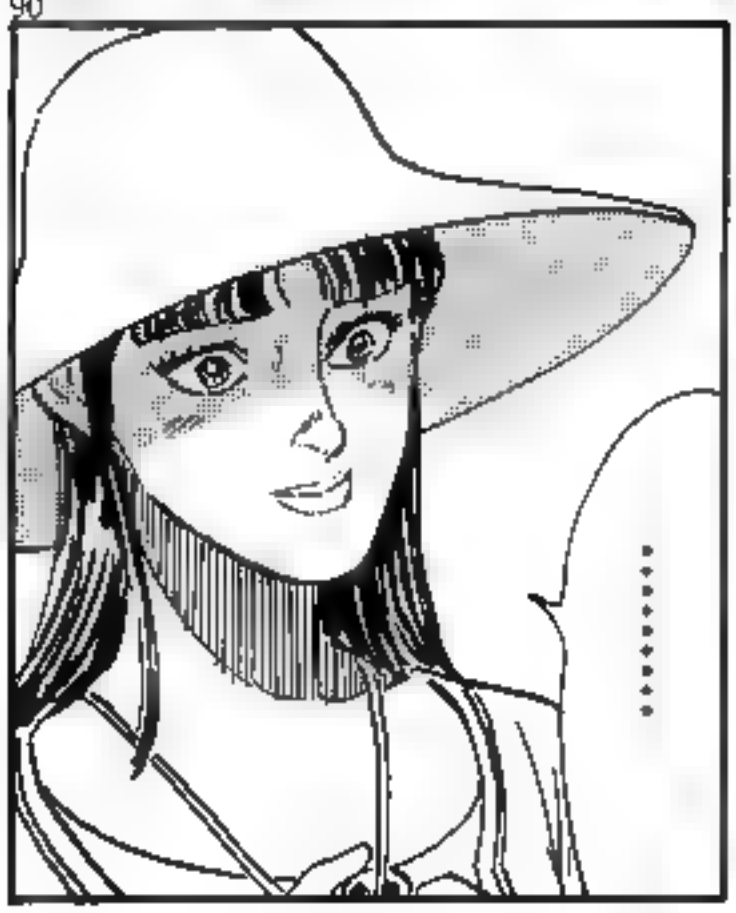
I don't even have a photograph... And my mother couldn't pronounce his name well, so I don't remember it.

Do you know what his name was, or what he looked like?

I feel that Greece and Japan are tied together within me...

You responded to what I was thinking, Professor Munakata...

Come and visit me anytime you want!
You can consider me your Father in Japan!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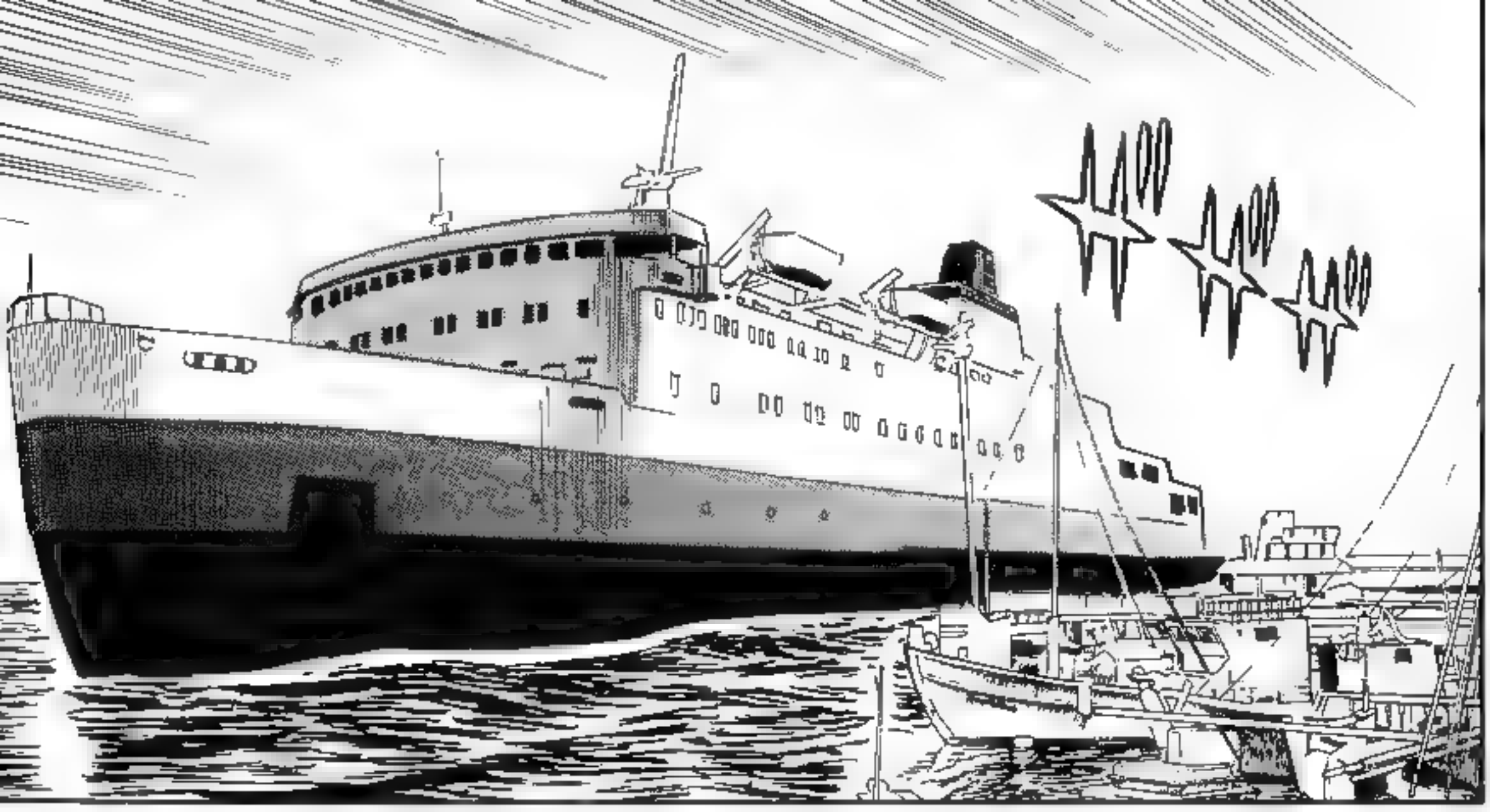


KATE-
RINA!
CRE

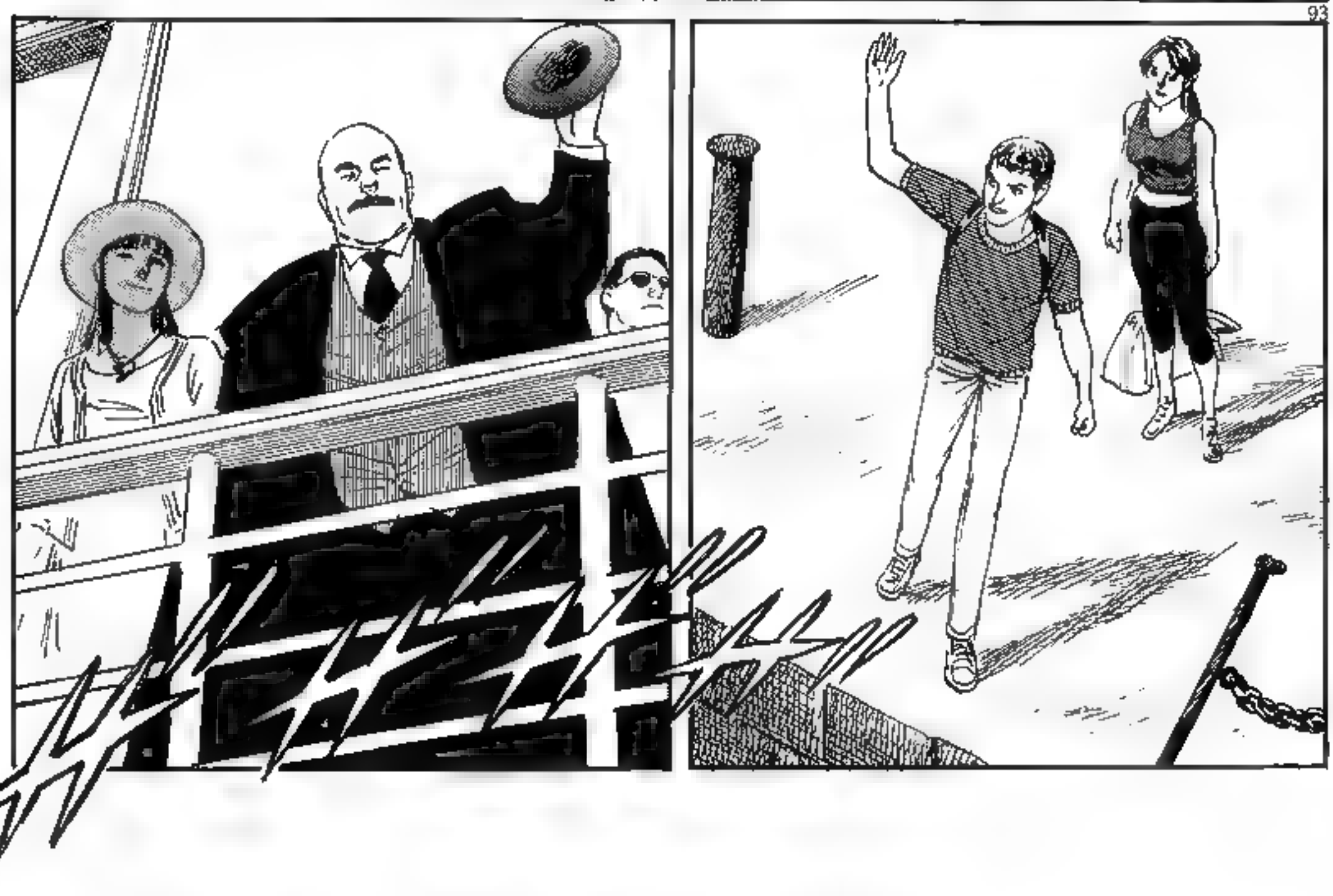
This is my girlfriend Katerina. She said she wanted to come to Crete, too...

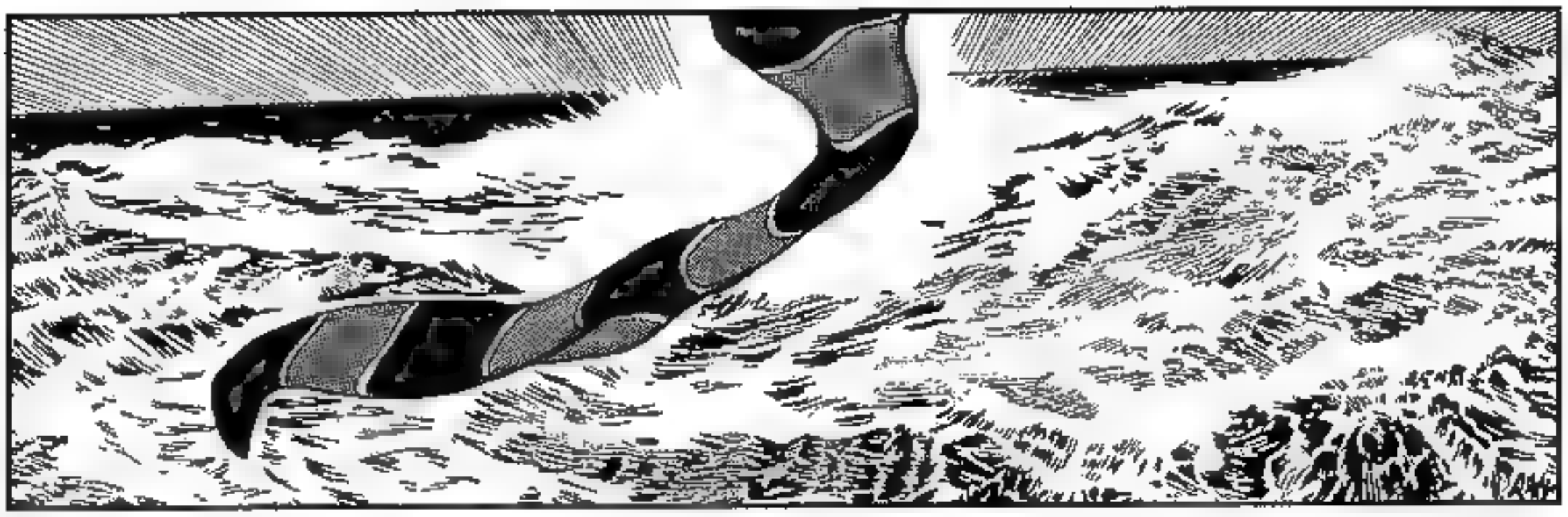
So you're the woman I saw in Athens...

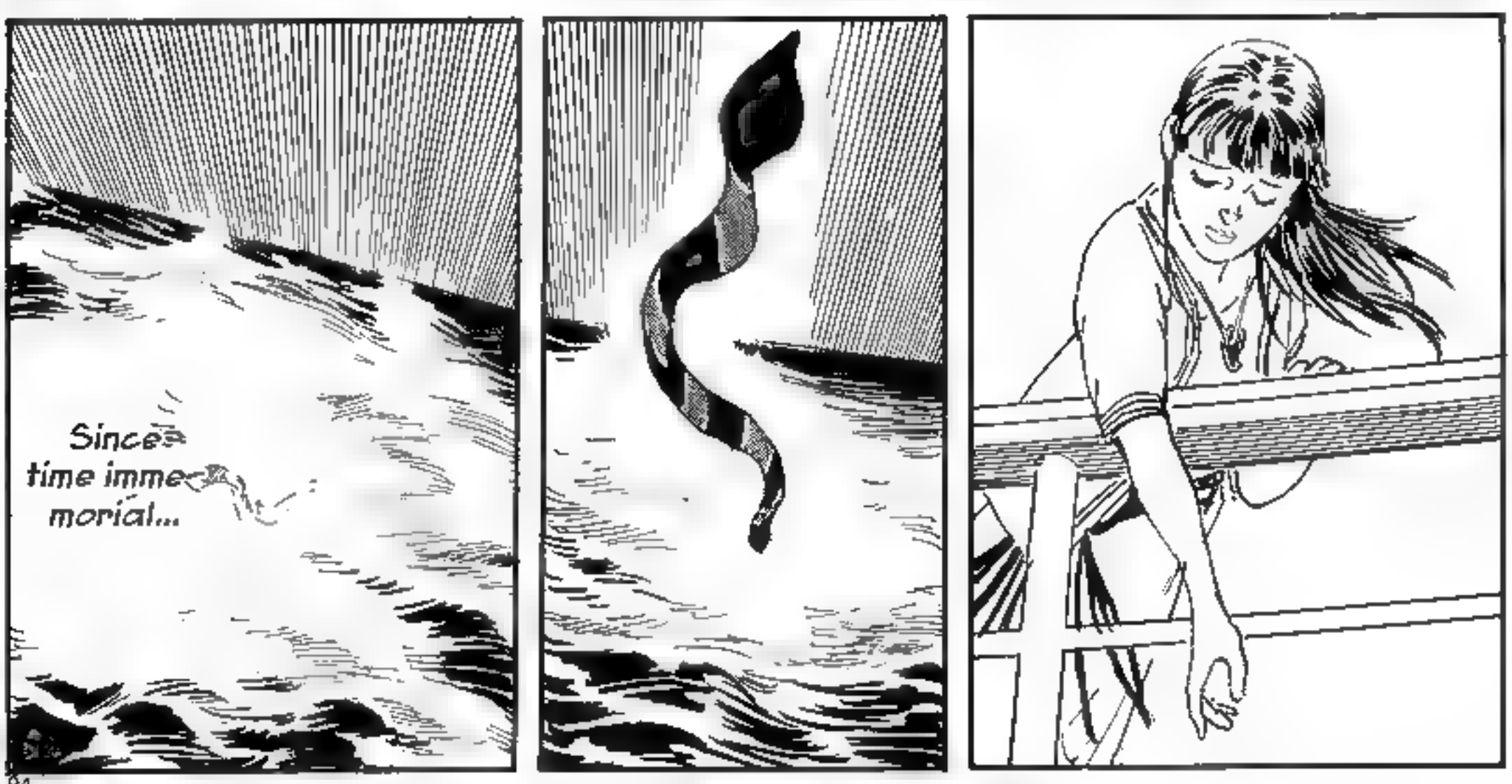
Can we go back by boat instead of by plane? I'd like to cross the Aegean Sea...

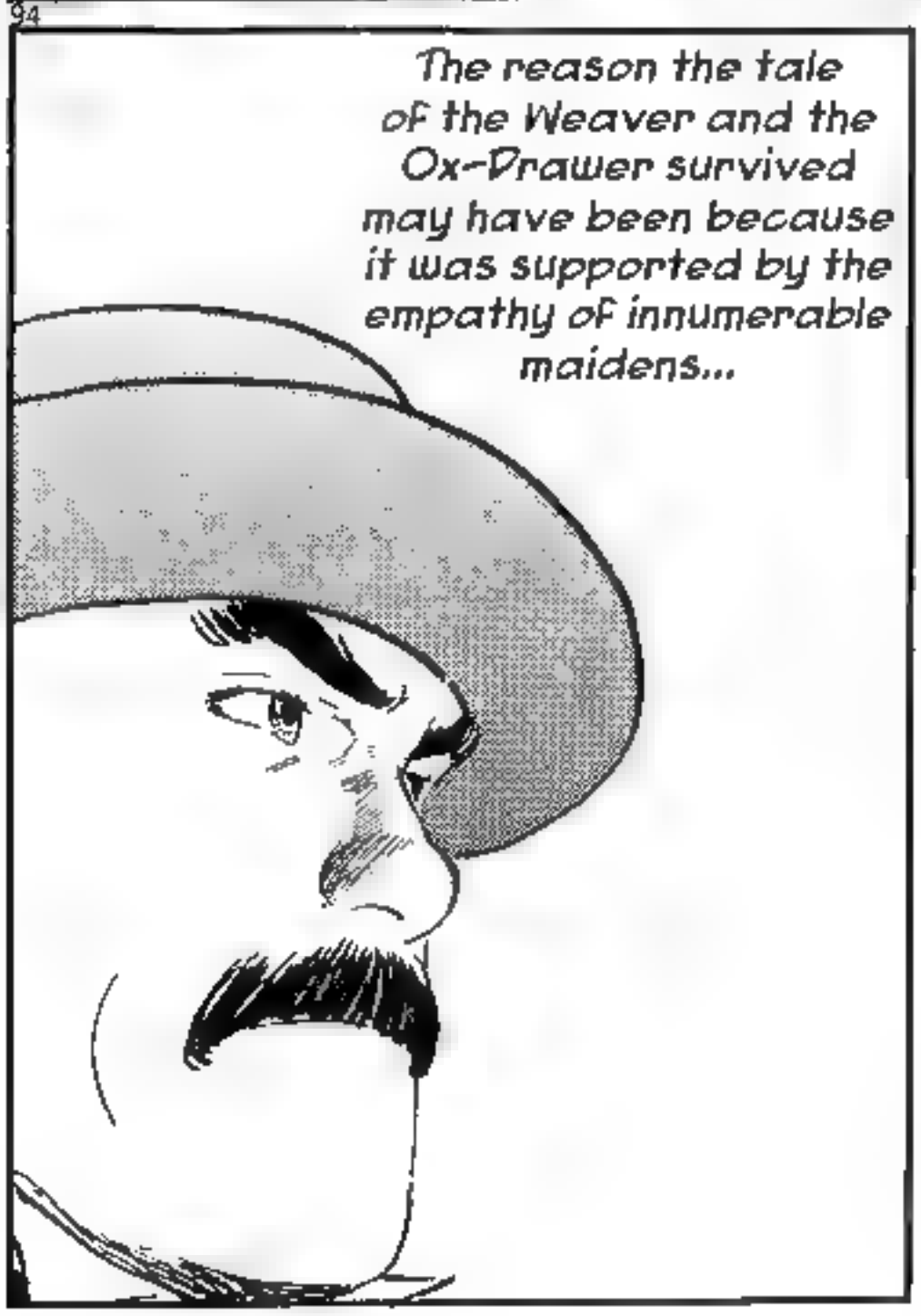
Taki...
It's alright, Uncle. I figured it out back in Athens...

And I'd rather be the one to go than the one left on the island...






Since a time immemorial...


The reason the tale of the Weaver and the Ox-Drawer survived may have been because it was supported by the empathy of innumerable maidens...

Young maidens have placed their hopes in thin threads.
They spin threads, weave on their looms, and sometimes put all on the line, all for the one they love.

95

Professor Munakata, allow me to introduce you to our ancient Greek specialist, Professor Ushijima.

23rd Annual

East Asian Folkloristics Conference

East Asia University of Culture

After being left on Naxos, Ariadne fell in love with Dionysus, god of wine, and became his wife...

After her death, the crown her husband gave her was lifted into the heavens, and became the constellation Corona Borealis.

Oddly enough, it shines in the summer sky along with Lyra, which contains the star Vega, and Aquila, which contains Altair.

The Case Records of Professor Munakata Collection 2 – END

これらの作品はフィクションです。
実在の団体・人物・事件などには
一切関係ありません。

◎初出一覧◎

花咲爺の犬

『ビッグコミック』2005年3月10日号、3月25日号

◆

割られた鏡

『ビッグコミック』2005年4月10日号、4月25日号、5月10日号

◆

織女と牽牛

『ビッグコミック』2005年7月10日号、7月25日号、8月10日号、8月25日号

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THE CASE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MUNAKATA

CHAPTER 7

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